Friday, October 23, 2009 ★★ Vol. 24 / No. 317

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TEMPESTUOUS SEA A little boy plays at the seawall in Barangay San Antonio in Aparri, Cagayan, on Wednesday unmindful of the raging waves reportedly as tall as 7 feet spawned by Typhoon "Ramil." Part of the seawall collapsed into the sea at the height of "Pepeng." The seaside communities in Aparri have been sandbagging the dangerously short distance between their homes and the shoreline. EDI DOMLAO

BUSINESS / B1
Ayala utility gets to extend water concession

METRO / A25
DOJ files charges vs Hayden Kho for sex video scandal: Belo off the hook

ACROSS / A17
190 Luzon stores found overpricing

SPORTS / A29
Stags draw first blood, beat Lions in double overtime

'Ramil' to slam Cagayan today

STORM CHASERS Weather specialist Dina Nolasco of the Pagasa Storm Team holds a portable anemometer to measure wind speed in Aparri, Cagayan, on Thursday. EDI DOMLAO

WHAT'S UP? President Arroyo listens to Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto during Thursday's tourism summit at the provincial capital in Batangas City. Talk is rife that the Palace may be referring to the actress-governor when it says it's talking to a "VIP" in for the running mate of Gilbert Teodoro. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

7-ft waves hit Aparri as typhoon gains speed

By Nikko Dizon and Alcuin Papa

TYPHOON "RAMIL" slowed down then nearly tripled its speed in a matter of six hours as it headed straight to northern Luzon for an expected landfall this morning.

Weather bureau officials said the high-pressure area near Hong Kong had moved farther up north, giving way for Ramil to barrel toward Cagayan and neighboring provinces.

The eye of the typhoon was expected to make landfall in Cagayan's northeastern town of Aparri.

"It's possible that by Friday morning (today), Ramil will make landfall in Cagayan," Dr. Prisco Nilo, chief of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), said at a late afternoon press conference yesterday.

Nilo gave the typhoon a "10-percent probability" of veering away and heading toward Taiwan. "But based on all data available, it would make landfall (today)," he said.

Pagasa Deputy Administrator Nathaniel Cruz said that northern Luzon was already "storm" as of Thursday night.

In Barangay Punta, Aparri, Cagayan, waves as high as 7 feet were already smashing into the seawall yesterday morning.

The winds were so strong they could knock a man to the ground, Barangay Punta is located RAMIL/A3

Gov't shoulders cost of leptospirosis cases

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) has entered into an agreement with five private hospitals to which the government can refer poor leptospirosis patients who can no longer be accommodated in congested public hospitals.

Under the memorandum of agreement (MOA) signed on Thursday between the DOH and the hospitals, the government will give a P5,000 subsidy for treating a patient for an uncomplicated case and P10,000 for a complicated case.

The DOH has allotted P60 million for the subsidy.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the subsidy was "not enough" to cover the expenses, but under the agreement, the private hospitals will shoulder the cost of the rest of the treatment until the patients recover.

The DOH has already sounded an appeal for international help for other technical or lo- GOVT/A21

Loren to announce veep bid today as Gibo scrambles for a partner

By Michael Lim Ubac

IT'S OFFICIAL: THE NATIONALIst People's Coalition (NPC) is fielding the tandem of Senators Francis Escudero and Loren Legarda in the May 2010 elections.

Pangasinan Rep. Mark Cojuangco, a son of tycoon and NPC chair emeritus Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., made the confirmation yesterday, a day before Legarda is to formally announce her intention to seek the vice presidency.

Legarda, however, told the Inquirer that she was making public her political plans for 2010 "alone," suggesting that Escudero would not be around.

She provided no explanation beyond saying that she wanted LOREN/A20

Ex-rebels seeking land free 2 forest rangers

By Franklin A. Caligaid in Davao City and Jocelyn R. Uy in Manila

FORMER COMMUNIST GUERrillas yesterday freed two of seven forest guards kidnapped to press demands for land for tribal communities in a mineral- and timber-rich watershed in Bukidnon City, the military reported.

Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said Ferdinand Gardila Jr. and Rivera Sabuero were released at the EX-REBELS/A21

Palace swiftly replaces Ebdane

By TJ Burgonio and Kristine L. Alave

TALK ABOUT "FAST-TRACK" projects.

Malacañang wasted no time naming a replacement for outgoing Public Works Secretary and now presidential aspirant Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. the day after his resignation letter was made public.

President Macapagal-Arroyo designated Victor Domingo, her adviser on new government centers, as acting secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Palace announced yesterday.

Ms Arroyo's personal choice, PALACE/A21

UN biscuits give rescuers a 'high'

By Delmar Carlito
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—IF POPEYE becomes like Superman on spinach, these guys get high on biscuits.

But it's no ordinary biscuit that turns them on.

The "high-energy biscuits" distributed by the United Nations have become a fa- UN BISCUITS/A22

Comelec: Erap may run until complaint is filed against him

By Kristine L. Alave, Christian V. Esguerra and Leila B. Salaverria

JOSEPH "ERAP" ESTRADA MAY run for president until a complaint is filed against his candidacy and the court or the Commission on Elections rules in favor of the complaint, Comelec Chair Jose Melo said yesterday.

Speaking at a media briefing, Melo said the Comelec could not stop Estrada from filing a certificate of candidacy. "We cannot say if he is qualified or not. There is no case against him. Right now, it seems that he is qualified because there is no protest against him," he said.

The ousted President and plunder convict formally declared his intention to seek re-election on Wednesday. His election running mate is Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, the president of the United Opposition (UNO).

In Malacañang, Cabinet Secretary Silvestre Bello III yesterday said "a deluge of petitions" questioning Estrada's eligibility to join the 2010 presidential race should be expected.

Thus, Bello said, there would be no need for the Palace to judge its own petition even if Estrada's political comeback was made possible by the pardon granted him by President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2007.

"I am sure that the moment President Estrada files his certificate of candidacy ... there will be a deluge of petitions to have it disqualified," Bello said at a press briefing.

He said these petitions would COMELEC/A21

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/23* 1 26 5 16 3 28

SUBTRES* SIX DIGIT*

4 5 0 3 6 0 2 2 3

2 7 0 SUPERLOTTO 6/49

14 18 23 32 34 43

2 6 0 P37,917,637.20

Largest call center in world opens in RP

By Dexter L. Lusaya and Allison M. Lopez

MORE JOBS ARE UP FOR GRABS IN THE LOCAL business processing outsourcing (BPO) industry despite the global economic slump, according to a leading call center company.

Maddy Zamora, Convergys vice president and country manager, said demand for BPOs in the Philippines continues to rise as Filipinos call center agents are known for their proficiency in English and for their good work ethic.

"2007 is a banner year for us. We have opened five new centers and we know we will somewhere near our forecast of 20,000 employees by December. We believe next year will be another great year for us. Business has really been burgeoning," Zamora said yesterday as Convergys opened its 12th and latest call center site at Glorietta 5 mall in Makati.

"It's really a testament to the quality of delivery of people here in the Philippines. Filipinos are really a talented lot," she said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was the guest of honor at the opening of the Glorietta 5 site, Convergys' largest call center facility in the world, making Convergys the largest BPO company in the country in terms of employee headcount. (See photo on Page A14)

According to Zamora, local BPO firms will remain highly dependent on call center services, or so-called voice services, despite the global shift toward higher-value added "non-voice" services.

Call center services account for the bulk of BPO services in the country but typically require less-skilled workers for which cheap pay lure.

By contrast, India, the global industry leader, has developed a deep pool of non-voice workers that specializes in providing highly technical services like accounting, engineering, programming and design services, among others.

Convergys' forte

Asked whether Convergys would join the industry shift toward higher-value added services, Zamora said the firm's forte continues to be in the field of "customer management services" (CMS), which are mainly call center operations.

"What our plans on the is strengthen our CMS. That's where the Philippines holds a leadership position," she said.

She said 96 percent of the company's employees are involved in call center operations, while only 30 percent are involved in "back office" services like accounts receivable management.

Carl Handy, Convergys senior vice president for human resources, said the demand for call center agents will remain strong, despite industry predictions of a looming dependence on them with the advent of greater automation.

"At the end of the day, there will always be [call center] agents. We don't see agents going away in the foreseeable future," he said.

The company's second site on Ayala Avenue and the 12th in the country, the Glorietta 5 center was started in 2005 and began operating in April. Its other sites are in Manila, Cebu, Bacolod and Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Attached to shopping center

This is the first Convergys site that is attached to a shopping complex. The facility has a total floor area of 17,000 square meters. It has 2,041 seats which could be ramped up to 3,500 to accommodate future client demand.

With the new facility, Convergys said it now employs 17,500 BPO workers in the country, making it the largest call center employer in the Philippines.

It will soon add another 500 seats at its 109-Ayala Land TechnoHub site in Quezon City and inaugurate a 500-seat site in San Lazaro, Manila, early next year.

Convergys clients include US-based firms involved in financial services and banking, telecommunications, information technology, pharmaceuticals, and the retail and e-commerce sectors.

Equal opportunity employer

Zamora said the launch of the 12th Convergys site also indicated that the company's clients from the United States, United Kingdom and Australia preferred the Philippines over other countries like India, its closest competitor in the BPO industry.

She said Convergys is an equal opportunity employer that does not discriminate with regard to age, gender, religion and physical disability.

"So if you have friends and relatives educated a job and have a good command of English and are computer-savvy, we're hiring," she said.

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'Ramil' won't stop GMA's Thailand trip

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo is out to fly to Thailand today to join other leaders from Southeast Asia for the 15th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit this weekend.

"We have made a decision to go ahead with the participation of the president because it would seem that [Typhoon] 'Ramil' by the grace of God is not going to set as bad as we feared," said Press Secretary Cerge Remonde in a briefing.

Northern Luzon yesterday feared for Ramil which is expected to make landfall in a day or two in Cagayan. It is the third major storm to hit the country in less than a month.

Leaders of the 10 Asean member nations will gather at the Thai resort of Hua Hin. (See related stories on Pages A4 and B8.)

Mr Arroyo is expected to make a pitch for regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction in view of the calamities that recently struck the region like floods, tsunamis and earthquakes, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

She will also seek the support of Asean and its dialogue partners for the success of the Philippine presidency of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York in May 2010.

TJ Burgonio

COPW Serving and Protecting the Filipino Consumer

CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH

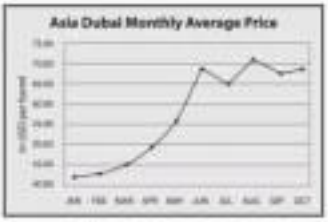
CONGRESS MUST AMEND THE OIL DEREGULATION LAW NOW

Congress must amend the Oil Deregulation Law, immediately. When it convenes on November 9, 2009.

Crude price has gone up to $80 per barrel, its highest in one year. It will go up even higher. The most recent price increase was brought about by the rising demand for heating oil in the United States with the onset of winter and the weak dollar.

An overwhelming 98.5% of respondents to the COPW survey AGREE with the COPW position that Congress must amend the Oil Deregulation Law. NOW.

Department of Energy Secretary Reyes has said that the DOE cannot set price ceilings under the Oil Deregulation Law. Then, he turns around by saying he is "okay with price ceilings; the only problem is if we can afford it."



THE PUBLIC MUST BE PROTECTED FROM EXCESSIVE AND UNREGULATED OIL PRICES. PROTECTION CAN COME ONLY THROUGH TOTAL TRANSPARENCY IN OIL PRICING. TRANSPARENCY CAN COME ONLY IF THE OIL DEREGULATION LAW IS AMENDED.

The COPW keeps saying the **DOE** and the **DOJ** have been **REMISS**, over the **past 11 years**. **The Oil Deregulation Law mandates both the DOE and DOJ to explain to the public if the prices of diesel & gasoline are fair.**

Their monitoring function is under the safeguard provisions built into Chapter III of the Oil Deregulation Law, particularly Section 12 (a) and Section 14 (d).

Yet, the DOE and the DOJ have failed in this monitoring function. This is unacceptable - especially to the people.

The **DOE** has repeatedly said that it cannot do anything about oil pricing. But the COPW keeps saying **the safeguard provisions built into Chapter III of the Oil Deregulation Law particularly Section 12 (a) and Section 14 (d) mandate the DOE-DOJ Task Force to monitor the volume and value of oil inventories and to inform the public whether the Oil Companies' price increase or decrease is justified.**

The DOE has not done its job. Consider the following:

- **At the July 2, 2008 meeting** called by **DOE** Secretary Reyes, he allowed the Oil Companies, both with a refinery and without a refinery, to use **MOPS-Singapore (IMPORTED DIESEL).**
- Oil companies with a refinery source their crude from the Middle East where the benchmark is the Dubai crude price which is lower than the **MOPS -- Mean of Platts Singapore**, the benchmark for pricing finished oil products in the region. Oil companies without refineries use the **MOPS**. Right away, you can see that the refineries have a built-in price advantage — Dubai, their actual source, is lower than **MOPS**.
- Despite the flexibility given them by the **DOE**, the Oil Companies still claimed a loss of P9.11 per liter for May 2008 and P7.01 per liter for June 2008, or P16.12 per liter for the two months, or P6 billion alleged losses for the industry. If these losses, both real and imaginary, were passed on to consumers, then the people suffered. This situation demonstrates the need for transparency.
- **Additionally,** the **DOE** persuaded **ALL** the Oil Companies to stagger their price increases to 50 centavos per week supposedly to cushion the public from the high price of crude in early July 2008 when it hit $140 per barrel. But the staggering enabled the Oil Companies to show losses for calendar year 2008.
- **However,** the price of crude reversed course, dropping to $33.86 per barrel for March 2009 delivery, and $37.51 per barrel for April 2009 delivery. **Based on these prices, COPW had contended that consumers can expect a rollback for diesel and gasoline of P8 for March 2009 and P7 for April 2009.**
- **COPW** then suggested that the Oil Companies start buying crude forward and take advantage of much, much lower prices of oil early this year.
- However, Shell stated that it does not practice buying forward contracts because that is tantamount to speculation.
- But then oil prices began climbing again, to $57 per barrel in May 2009, and $69 in June. Had Shell bought low in March and April, it would have made at least a 40% profit -- $49 in April vs. $69 in June. And it would not have been necessary to impose many of the price increases the Oil Companies have begun to impose.
- It is therefore **UNFAIR** for **SHELL to pass on to the RIDING public & MOTORISTS, their higher cost of CRUDE OIL.**
- Although the price of crude has gone up to $80, the increase should not be reflected immediately, or at least not until after 45 days. **Refiners Shell & Petron carry crude stocks which are good for 45 days.**
- Global Importers Chevron and Total and New Players Flying V, Seaoil, Unioil, Eastern Petroleum, PTT Philippines, Citi Oil and Phoenix Petroleum have **10 to 15 days inventory cycles and therefore can adjust prices weekly based on MOPS.**

COPW will meet privately with the Refiners Shell and Petron, and then with Global Importers Chevron and Total and separately with the New Players to discuss the issue of cartelization to once-and-for-all reach a resolution of the issue.

So Congress, please amend the Oil Deregulation Law. Now.

We want your feedback

CONGRESS SHOULD IMMEDIATELY AMEND THE OIL DEREGULATION LAW.

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Chairman

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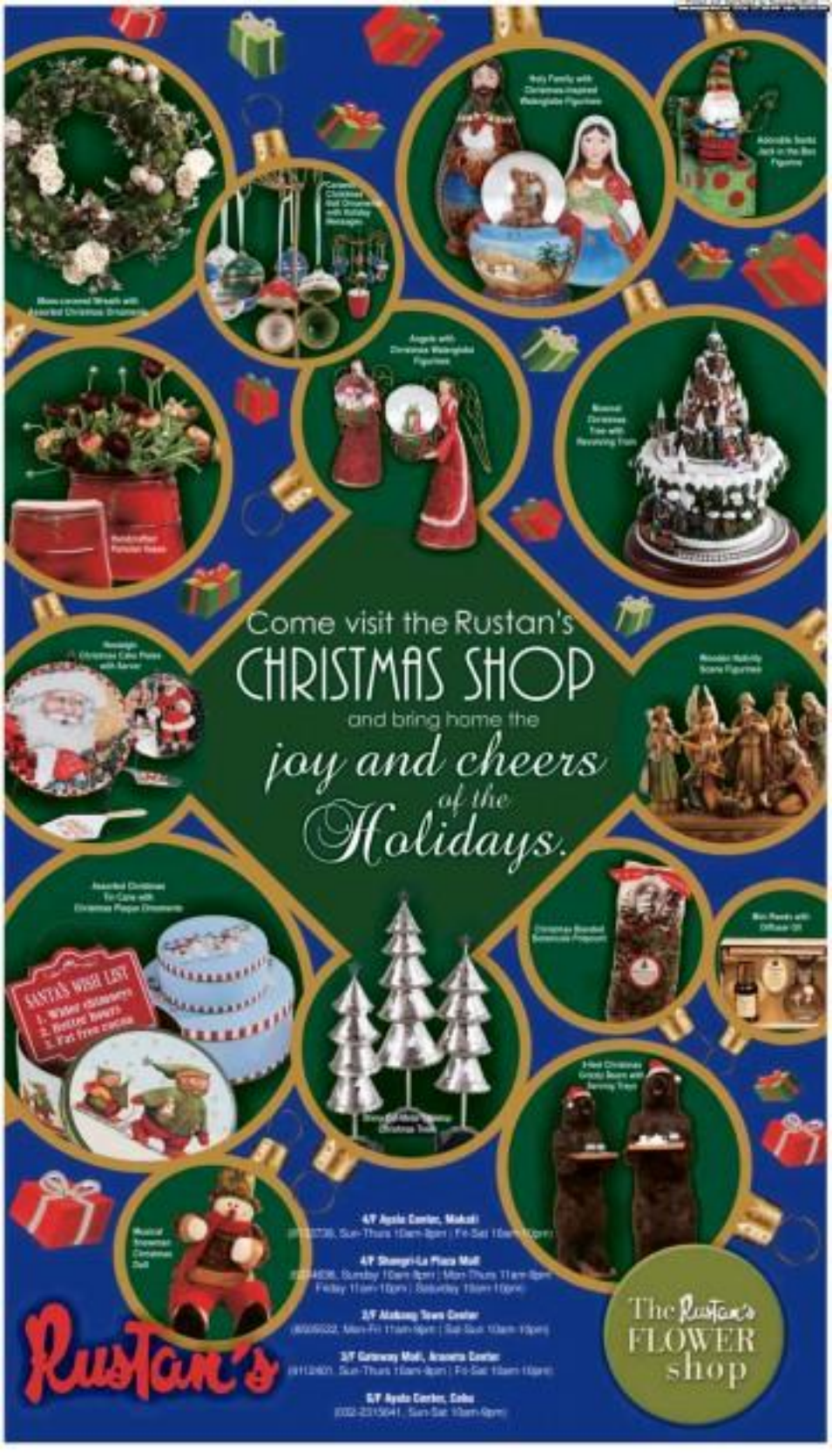
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₱100-M plan launched to find out what went wrong

By Konrad Dorango

THE JOB OF TAKING STOCK OF what went wrong when Typhoon Frank "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" struck last year began.

In partnership with international development agencies, the government yesterday launched a ₱100-million program to promote the reduction of disaster risk and adaptation to climate change among local governments.

The Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR/CCA) project is aimed at making the defense against the hazards—impacts of climate change an integral part of local decision-making and planning processes.

The National Economic and Development Authority, the Australian Agency for International Development and the United Nations Development Program are the cooperating bodies in the DRR/CCA.

Post-disaster assessment

At launch yesterday billed the roll-out of a post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) project, which is to mean a joint effort of various government agencies, including the Neda and the World Bank, UN, Asian Development Bank and European Commission.

According to Neda Acting Director General Augusto E. Santos, the DRR/CCA project was on offshoot of the destructive floods in Metro Manila and Northern Luzon brought about by Ondoy and Pepeng.

Damages from the twin storms disturbances has been estimated at ₱20 billion, to crops and infrastructure as well as homes and livelihood.

"We need to take stock of what went wrong with our disaster preparedness and mitigation programs," said Santos.

Awareness

Santos said the project is also aimed at bringing awareness and understanding of climate risk reduction and climate change adaptation down to the community, incorporating it into its business and development plans at the local level.

"The project will promote a readiness to face future energy to rebuild the affected areas stronger and more resilient communities, while frontline agencies and local government units currently focus on the quick recovery of these areas," he said.

Stir action

"We hope to stir action in everyone, not only among those directly involved in disaster management or among scientists," Santos said.

The PDNA, on the other hand, will determine the extent of damage and loss as well as identify resources for recovery and reconstruction.

According to Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves, the PDNA process will help the government identify needs, policy gaps and resources, as well as the appropriate programs and interventions to better prepare the country for future calamities.

Results

Results of the PDNA are expected around the last week of November.

Teves, who also eschews the Public-Private Sector Infrastructure Committee, has asked the World Bank to take the lead in coordinating the implementation of the PDNA, in close cooperation with government agencies and other development partners.

"The huge tasks at hand both in terms of short-term recovery and long-term reconstruction demand an less than a concerted response from all sectors of society and the global community," he said.

Framework for recovery

"The PDNA will serve as a framework by which the country could mobilize greater support from the broader global community for recovery and reconstruction," said Ron Hoffmann, WB country director for the Philippines.

"The World Bank is honored to coordinate this effort as it is extremely important for the country in recovery as soon as possible and alleviate the conditions of the poor who were the most affected by these calamities," Hoffmann said.

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Transparency the issue in DepEd purchases–solon

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PARTYLIST LAWMAKER spearheading the Department of Education's purchases of allegedly overpriced anti-lice shampoo and ear inspection devices confirmed in court that the DepEd's procurement process was flawed.

"They may have come up with an explanation which rejustified everything, but the court room exercise Transparency and irregularity in the agency's bidding process, and the circumstances of the project in addressing the medical needs of the students. The price may be right but the process, no(t)," said Ederman party-list Rep. Raymond Palatino.

Palatino has alleged that the DepEd's purchase of anti-lice citronella shampoo at P12 per 1.8-ml packet was overpriced, claiming there were cheaper alternatives available.

He also claimed that the DepEd had arranged to buy diagnostic otoscopes, or ear examination devices, at over P13,000 a set, when there were available otoscopes priced at between P128 and P195.

Fewer side effects

The DepEd explained that it chose the citronella shampoo over the alternative anti-lice shampoo because it had fewer side effects. It also said the diagnostic sets it had chosen did not just have otoscopes, but also ophthalmoscopes, which are used to examine the eyes.

Palatino continued to question the bidding process, claiming that the DepEd had made "drastic and incredible changes" in the description of the items in the bid documents.

He contended that in 2007, the DepEd sought bidders for its planned purchase of 100,000 packets of citronella shampoo for P900,000. But in an August 2008 invitation to rebid, he said the number of citronella shampoo packets to be bought was reduced to 75,000, although the budget for these items remained at P900,000.

No irregularity

In another controversial procurement, the DepEd has asked the Department of Justice for an opinion on whether it could proceed with the P427-million "fortified noodle" program after an official review found an irregularity in the bidding process.

Undersecretary Emilita Enrigo said the DepEd would like to know whether it can now sign the contract with Arroyo Manufacturing, the winning bidder, even after Education Secretary Jesli Lapus had ordered the project cancelled.

Enrigo noted that Lapus had also filed a motion for Lapuz to reconsider his order canceling the project.

Not overpriced

He said the review committee found that the contract was not overpriced and that there was no irregularity in the bidding process.

The review committee included representatives from the noodle-manufacturing industry and members of inter-agency committees, he said.

"They said it was really a very reasonable price. The bidding process was very regular and in accordance (with the rules)," he said.

Bidding process rigged

Critics of the project alleged that the bidding process was rigged and that the noodles were overpriced and did not contain the nutrients they were claimed to have.

The Senate has yet to conduct its inquiry into the controversy.

But Enrigo said the department would be guided by the DOJ opinion which it hoped would be issued within the month.

The noodle feeding program is supposed to benefit some 400,000 students with nutritional deficiencies in 10 provinces.

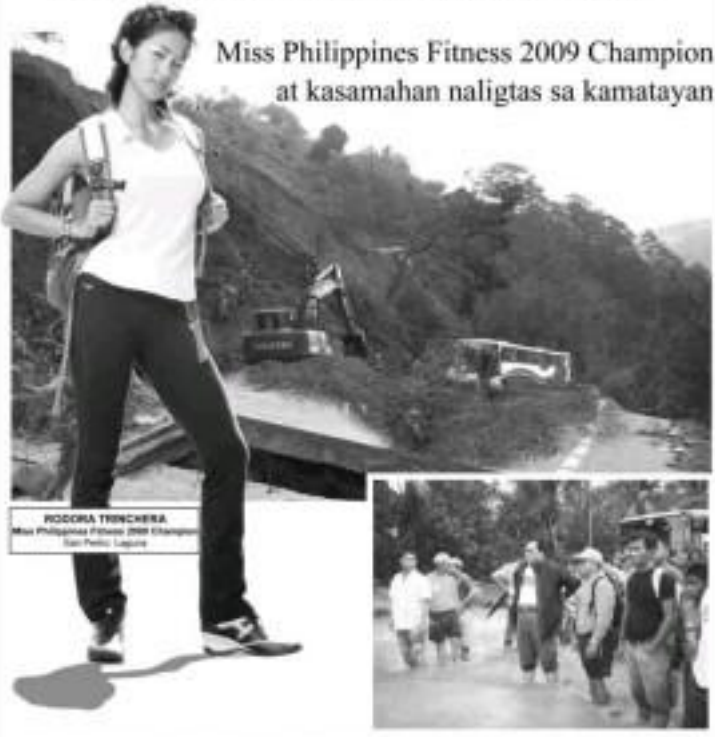
10-percent increase

The noodles are to be provided daily to pre-school and Grade 1 pupils for 100 feeding days this year, representing a 10-percent increase from previous years' 90 feeding days, the DepEd said.

The DepEd claimed the noodles had been verified to contain vitamins and minerals by the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) and SGS Phil., the local unit of the Swiss-based inspection company Geneva. Its surveillance which provides inspection, verification, testing and certification services for traded goods.

Dahil sa 24/7 alerto ni Sec. Jun Ebdane...

Miss Philippines Fitness 2009 Champion at kasamahan naligtas sa kamatayan



RODORA TRINCHERA
Miss Philippines Fitness 2009 Champion
San Pedro, Laguna

Halos matabunan na ng landslide ang bus na sinasakyan nina Rodora at kasamahan, lulan sila din ang galong sa putik at nabalaho na. Madilim na ang buong kapaligiran sa kabundukan. Tulirat at halos panawan na si Rodora ng pag-asa. Unti-unti na din silang tinutulak ng rumaragasang tubig-baha at putik sa bangin, sa kasagsagan ng bagyong Pepeng sa Benguet.

"Nagpa-panic na kami. Nagtatawag sa mga kaibigan para ma-rescue kami dahil anytime, puwede kaming matabunan sa bangin, o matabunan." Paglalahad ni Rodora.

Nakarating agad sa tanggapan ni Secretary Jun Ebdane ang pananagan at anireo'y kidlat sa bilis n'ya itong inaksiuso. Matindi man ang lagay ng panahon sinasong ng DPWH Lightning Rescue Team ang kinalalagyan ng mga na-stranded na biktima at sila'y iniligtas.

Kung sina Rodora at mga kasama ay agarang sinaklolohan ni Jun Ebdane, tiyak drug-rehabilitation ng sambayanan ang kanyang buton-kidlat na serbisyo!

Di kaya, isang Jun Ebdane ang Tamang Daan sa 2010?

UN to Asean: Make rights body credible

BANGKOK—THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) urged Asean nations to make their new regional human rights body "credible" Thursday as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) prepared for its official launch.

The Asean Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) will be the first regional human rights body in Asia-Pacific and will be launched in Jakarta next Friday in the Thai resort town of Hua Hin for high-level meetings.

The AICHR "will have to work hard to establish itself as a credible regional mechanism and help close the gap between human rights rhetoric and the reality on the ground," said Homayoun Alizadeh, regional representative for the UN's human rights coordinator.

"There is much hope and expectation surrounding this occasion, as it represents an important commitment by states in the region to move beyond mere words," Alizadeh said in a statement.

Asean's reputation has suffered over repeated alleged human rights abuses by member states, particularly military-ruled Myanmar (Burma).

Earlier this year, Thailand also came under the spotlight for reported mistreatment by its armed forces of ethnic Rohingya immigrants who tumbled up on its shores after escaping Myanmar.

Activists are pushing Asean to take a stronger stance on alleged human rights abuses in Burma, and will be holding an Asean Peoples Forum to coincide with the weekend summit. AFP

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, October 23, 2009
29th Week in Ordinary Time
John of Capistrano

Lk 12:54-59

Jesus said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once 'A shower is coming,' and so it happens; and when the wind blows from the south, you say, 'It will be hot,' and so it is. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

"And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? When you go with your adversary before the court, try to settle the case on the way, lest he drag you before the judge and the judge deliver you to the police, and the police throw you in prison. I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the very last penny."

Commentary:

Jesus taught against the usual custom daily on judgment and condemnation. The issue is who, in many ways, are entrusted and charged to say "how we, as Christians, should treat our enemies. Each sinner may throw who has been persistently against him, a slap of our enemies. And it is hard to do especially amid the actual fact of our sinful humanity and the wicked. And always we may remind his enemies, as we have done many times in our enemies. And it is very hard to do especially amid the actual fact of our sinful humanity and the wicked. And always we may remind his enemies, as we have done many times in our enemies.

Indeed, refraining from using self-defense against disappointing enemy does require patience and forbearance. Followers of Christ are called again to love their enemies, as Christ loved His. If Christ's kingdom were of this world, we would use our enemies and destroy them. However, Christ's kingdom is not of this world. However, Christ's purpose was to redeem us, and this is why we command and welcome it when he visited, however, that the visit was not to destroy us, but to save us. Christ's kingdom is not of this world. His kingdom is built around our love...and our love for our enemies!

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Davide to UN: Rid the world of nukes to save mankind

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY "must act in concert with all the political will it can muster to rid the world of nuclear weapons once and for all and save the planet and humanity," according to Ambassador Alberto Encinas, the Philippine permanent representative to the United Nations.

"The elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee against on the only way to save humanity from the use of such weapons," of mass destruction, Davide said in a message to the First Committee of the UN General Assembly this week.

Davide, who is the commission's vice chair, said the political climate in the world now presents the best opportunity to make progress toward disarmament and nonproliferation.

He cited "recent positive developments" like the Security Council summit chaired by U.S. President Barack Obama, as well as statements by other world leaders giving prominence and importance to the issue.

While the Philippines welcomed such statements, Davide said it would welcome even more concrete action and definitive plans to achieve global disarmament.

He commended the United States and Russia for agreeing to have a follow-on agreement to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and called on "all other possessors of nuclear arms to take urgent steps to reduce and eventually eliminate their nuclear arsenals."

"The challenge is to develop a nuclear strategy that will bring all possessors of nuclear weapons to the multilateral negotiating table that will lead them to global nuclear disarmament," said Davide.

According to the envoy, the Philippines "supports calls for an irreversible and complete elimination of nuclear weapons under international supervision and is prepared to constructive proposals for a phased process leading to the ultimate objective of achieving total nuclear disarmament."

At the height of the Cold War, there were as many as 70,000 nuclear warheads in the arsenals of both Washington and Moscow.

The number has since been reduced to around 23,500, which remains to the stockpile of at least eight countries... the US, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, Israel, India and Pakistan.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, signed in 1968, prohibits its parties from possessing nuclear arms.

However, it recognizes five states—France, China, Russia, the UK and the US—from this ban.

But the exception is countered with a legal obligation for these countries to eventually disarm. Jerry E. Esplanada

Ad Congress move 'a cinch'

By Abigail L. Ho

DESPITE RAISING BARELY A month to prepare, officials of both the 21st Philippine Advertising Congress and Cebu Boy Metropolitan Ad Director (CEMA) are confident of a "smooth" transition as congress venue from Baguio City to the Cebu Transport.

Ad Congress overall chair Margot Torres said it would not be that difficult to make the excited move since Cebu hosted the last Ad Congress in 2007.

Also, the conference venue, the Cebu Boy Exhibition and Convention Center, was "tailor-fit to Ad Congress' needs," Torres said.

The Cebu convention center was refurbished in 2007 specifically to meet the needs of the 5,000 delegates who attended the 20th Ad Congress, she added.

CEMA Ad Association Armand Arceo assured Ad Congress organizers that hotels in the low-priced but more than enough rooms to accommodate the more than 3,000 delegates expected at the convention.

Officials of the city's Ad Congress decided to move it to Cebu from Baguio after Typhoon "Pepeng" wreaked havoc on northern Luzon last months ago.

"The problem, last not with Baguio City itself but with the roads leading to it," explained Torres, who added that the safety of the delegates was the primary concern.

Although the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) had projected an inclusive state to Baguio, she said this took at least four hours to traverse, instead of the usual six hours on Kennon Road.

She said officials of Camp John Hay, where the event was supposed to be held, understood the Advertising Board's decision.

Pepeng damaged some that caused floods and landslides in and around Baguio and the province of Benguet. Many were killed and many more rendered homeless.

Part of the proceeds from this year's Ad Congress would be donated to the Philippine National Red Cross and other groups in the aftermath of Pepeng and Typhoon Ondoy, which struck Metro Manila and Central Luzon earlier, Torres said.

"It was even proposed that proceeds from ticket sales for the event's highlights—the Arrow Awards—be given to the Red Cross," she said.

Mayor convicted of dipping into calamity funds

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS FOUND A former South Cotabato mayor guilty of illegal use of public funds for granting the cash gifts given to municipal employees from the town's calamity fund.

The antigraft court's Third Division found former Tampakan Mayor Claudio Barroso guilty of technical malversation and ordered him to pay a fine of P90,125 or face imprisonment.

The court also convicted former municipal treasurer Wenefreda Manes and former municipal accountant Oscar Pacquiao.

To be... every close the additional cash gift which was taken from the calamity fund was not in any way connected with a calamity," the court said.

Then Mayor Pedro Cagas initiated the complaint with a letter to the Commission on Audit office in Koronadal City.

The COA found that the P5,000 in cash given to each municipal employee in December 2002 had come from the town's calamity fund.

The accused claimed the cash gifts, which totaled P962,000, had come from the town's savings.

"After judicious scrutiny of the evidence, we find that the P962,500 was taken from the municipality's calamity fund. The documentary evidence submitted by both the prosecution and defense speak for themselves," the court said.

Edwin C. Sarmiento Jr.

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DepEd: Schools slowly returning to normal

ALMOST A MONTH AFTER THE destructive floods brought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and "Pepeng," classes in public schools in eight of the affected regions in Luzon are slowly returning to normal, the Department of Education said yesterday.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said he has ordered the schools in the regions that are most severely hit during the destruction to reopen their make-up classes.

"Of the more than 3000 schools used as evacuation centers, only 145 remain partially occupied by evacuees and teachers have started to conduct classes in available rooms," Lapus said.

Of the nearly 8 million families that were evacuated, only about 11,600 remained in public schools, he added.

Lapus said the two storms caused P1.23 billion worth of damages to public schools—P748.9 million by Ondoy and P481.8 million by Pepeng.

Make-up classes

The damage estimates cover the cost of repair, rehabilitation of classrooms and the replacement of textbooks, instructional materials, computers, equipment and other school properties, Lapus said.

He added that more than 2,500 schools were affected by those two storm disturbances.

School officials in the Bicol, Cagayan, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, and Ilocol regions give the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon provinces) and Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) regions.

Affected public schools may also opt for make-up classes the midyear break from Oct. 26 to 30, normally used to summer the professional development of teachers and their in-service training, Lapus said.

Home study

Schools could also conduct "modularized instruction" which would allow students to study at home to make up for lost time hours, he said.

This is the Modified In-School, Out-of-School approach under which schools could distribute educational materials to school children who are unable to attend school to their homes through modules that was possible to be retrieved supplied from the classroom.

He said distributions will not jump start of the number of schoolchildren lost to the schools under their jurisdiction and the make-up classes to ensure that the minimum number of school days of the school calendar is preserved.

He already that were not severely affected by the typhoons may observe the midterm break as scheduled, said Lapus.

Lapus thanks private sector for help after Ondoy, Pepeng devastations.

Lapus also thanked the DepEd's Adopt-A-School partners from the private sector after they readily expressed interest in helping the public schools that were hit by Ondoy and Pepeng.

"That is foundation of work in our education system. When our donors have done is encouragement of active community participation in education, which will help our schoolchildren and teachers recover from storm," said Lapus in a statement.

He said the National Bookstore Foundation was repacking school supplies that will be distributed to public schoolchildren, while the National Power Corp. (Napocor) pledged to donate materials and contribute manpower to help clean affected public schools.

Cleansers, disinfectants

Amway Philippines will donate cleansers and disinfectants while public school students in some affected areas can expect relief supplies from the Alfonso Yuchengco Foundation, Inc. said.

On the other hand, the Ayala Foundation and Team Buak have also expressed their desire to help affected public schools while many private individuals have donated used books and cash for the victims of the typhoons, the DepEd said.

"The community—including the private sector—is our most important ally in rebuilding our schools. Everybody can do something to help our students and teachers recover from this calamity," Lapus said. —Philip C. Tubeo

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO cut the ribbon inaugurating the Isuzu Concierge facility in the Philippines located in Sherikita 3-in-1 Auto Avenue in Makati City. Assisting the President were (from left) Trade Secretary Peter Favila, Concierge vice president operations Aris Mesina, US Ambassador Kristie Kenney, Concierge vice president and country manager Marlo Zamora, Commission on Information Technology chair Rey Dosa and Concierge senior vice president for human resources Clark Maeda. (Story on Page A2.) EDWIN BACASMAS

'Climate change affects women more'

THE THEME TOPIC OF CLIMATE change was discussed yesterday at the opening of the three-day Asia Pacific NGO Forum on Beijing+15 at Miriam College in Quezon City.

In her keynote address, Undersecretary General Noeleen Heyzer underscored the relevance of tackling climate change not only in light of the aftermath of the back-to-back storms that ravaged parts of Luzon but also in the context of women's rights.

"Women and children are 14 times more likely to be victims of natural disasters than men to accident relieve gender inequalities exist," Heyzer said.

Heyzer reminded with the Philippines and noted that women climate change, a topic to be addressed today at the forum, would affect everyone, "women are among the most highly impacted due to gender-based division of labor and existing gender inequality."

Heyzer, who stayed only a few hours in Manila to attend the forum, has played key role in pushing for women's rights through intergovernmental organizations and through the United Nations.

As executive secretary of the 138 Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, she has championed energy, food and water security as well as green growth in the Asia Pacific region. She has also worked with member-states to develop a more coordinated, integrated regional response to the global economic crisis.

Heyzer lauded the efforts of feminist intellectuals such as Patricia B. Licuanan, former university and president of Miriam College, and Leticia Ramos-Shahani, a former minister and dean of the College of International Management and Development Studies at Miriam.

But she said there was still much to be done before a shared "vision of more equitable societies" could be achieved, wherein "where daughters have the same chances as sons, where women live safe lives without poverty and discrimination."

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Marcos crony seeks dismissal of bribe cases

ROMULO CRONY HERMOSO DILOY IBAY again petitioned the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court to dismiss the criminal cases filed against him in connection with the $10-million bribe that he allegedly solicited for the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

Diloy, a golfing buddy of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, said in a new motion filed yesterday that the Ombudsman's Office had failed to give him access to the preliminary investigation records of the cases against him.

The court last month dismissed a petition from Diloy asking the court to suspend his trial for six months because of supposedly failing health.

The court said suspending the proceedings would be against the speedy trial required as the pre-trial conference for the cases has been pending since February 2005 because of the numerous motions filed by Diloy's lawyers.

In his latest petition, Diloy said the court could not have acquired jurisdiction over the cases against him—Criminal Cases 28001 and 28002—because the records of the preliminary investigation were never submitted to the court.

Diloy also asked the Sandiganbayan First Division to remove from the cases Raymundo Arlo Dingaan, acting director of the Office of the Special Prosecutor, for alleged "bias and partiality."

The prosecution alleged that Diloy, who reportedly fled to Europe after Marcos was ousted in 1986, used his connections with the dictator to convince the government to build the nuclear plant that was awarded to US firms Westinghouse Electric Corp. and Burns and Roe.

He is alleged to have "requested and received" $3 million from Burns and Roe and $37 million from Westinghouse for facilitating the contract.

Other cases dismissed

The original cost of the 620-megawatt nuclear plant was $500 million, but this ballooned to $2.3 billion by the time it was completed in 1984, or four times the original price.

In another Marcos crony case, the Sandiganbayan Court has upheld its April 2009 resolution dismissing graft charges against Rodolfo Reyes Reondanillo, the brother of Marcos flight attendant Rebecca Sta. Maria, for allegedly holding simultaneously two government positions and receiving salaries from both from 1976 to 1986.

In an en banc resolution, the high Court denied with finality a motion for reconsideration filed by state prosecutors against the April 2009 dismissal of the charges against Reondanillo.

It said that no substantial arguments were presented to warrant the reversal of the ruling.

Reondanillo was charged with using his influence to be appointed ambassador to China, Brazil, Austria and the United States while working as Lotis personnel, and for receiving compensation for both government positions.

The high court ruled that the case had already prescribed since Reondanillo was charged only on Nov. 5, 2001, and this was from the alleged commission of the offense to the filing of the cases was beyond the 15-year prescriptive period. Edson C. Tandoc

To send your comments on this column

Workers protest transfer of school that trains cops, firemen, wardens

By Jeannette I. Andrade

EMPLOYEES OF THE PHILIPPINE Public Safety College (PPSC) in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, set up in arms after the training school was given notice to vacate its campus.

The PPSC has until Nov. 5 to leave its premises and relocate, ironically, to a building in Malvar City that may be classified as unsafe and a "fire trap."

PPSC Employees Association spokesperson Pacifico Pinedo told the Inquirer: "Everything was a done deal before we were informed. No (PPSC) town consultation is distinguished."

He was referring to a joint consultant agreement between the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and the consortium of Megaworld Corp., Empire Land Holdings Inc. and First Centro Inc., with the building of the National Police Commission (Napolcom).

The PPSC was never mentioned in the contract, learned it succeeded to vacate its premises in August 2008.

Pinedo said once the lease contract for a new PPSC site entered into by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Philippine Public Safety Corp., owner of PET Have Time or Echo in Makati City was signed without consulting the PPSC.

"We are not opposed to the transfer but the Napolcom has to give us a personal relocation site, one that is decent and orderly. We have to keep our training facilities intact," he said.

The PPSC was created by Republic Act No. 6975 to be the "premier educational institution for the training, human resource development and continuing education of all personnel of the Philippine National Police, Fire and Jail Bureaus."

"But inside Fort Bonifacio, the PPSC does not jibe with the vision for development of Fort Bonifacio by Megaworld and other developers. We disagree with Dilg. We are a school. There are other schools inside Fort Bonifacio. Why can't they treat the PPSC as an educational institution like them," Pinedo said, referring to the International School and Bethlehem School.

The National Police College and National Forensic Science Training School are also located in the 3.6-hectare PPSC compound at Bonifacio.

"Should the relocation push through, both training facilities will be transferred to a property at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna.

Pinedo pointed out that separating the PPSC and MMET from the PPSC would violate the law that created the agency via the first phase Executive Order (EO) 60 which reorganized the DILG, the PPSC must have adequate physical training facilities. In the PPSC, the SPC and MMET are its training facilities.

Under the agreement, the Megaworld consortium would undertake the development of the property and "make available 2,000 square meters of office floor area for the exclusive use of Napolcom and/or DILG."

The agreement says: "The cost of the improvements that shall be constructed ... shall be for the account of the respondents (Megaworld) and/or any possession, disposition, development and control, and over which the winning proponent may exercise all other rights similar to the rights which Napolcom may be entitled."

Megaworld also agreed under the contract to "make available 8000 residential units of not less than 50 square meters each which the winning proponent shall set at a rate of not more than P800,000 for Napolcom beneficiaries and if feasible to other DILG personnel."

Pamela Dumas, 55

MARIA ISABELLA "BELBEL" HARvello Dumas of Tacloban City died on Oct. 19 at the age of 55.

She is survived by her husband Jaroyce Lim Dumas; children Ayah, Pawee, Hiccolo, Bullet, Lisa, Bubbe and Mimaya; brothers and sisters Vic, Ulick, Bimbay and Nymas.

Her remains lie at Arlington Memorial Chapels Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be announced later.

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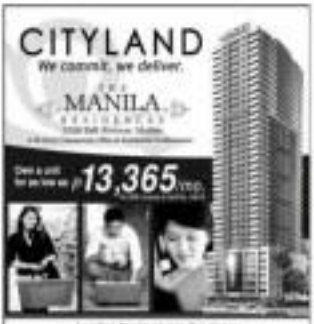

safety tips after a flood

After a flood hits your home, be very cautious before you power up, plug and turn on your appliances.

Check if your house is the only one without power or if it's the whole neighborhood. If your home is the only one without power, you need to check your home electrical system. Ask a competent **licensed electrician** to do this for you.

Please remember these helpful safety reminders:

- Make sure that the main electrical power switch or circuit breaker is turned off.
- Unplug all equipment and appliances. Turn off switches of permanently connected equipment. Unscrew all light bulbs if possible.
- Remove mud and dirt from the service equipment or main circuit breaker/fuse and its enclosure, using protective gear or equipment such as rubber gloves, rubber-soled shoes and wet insulated pliers.
- As a safety precaution always assume the wires are "hot," "live" or energized whenever working.
- Allow convenience outlets, switches, electrical wires, sockets, connectors, breakers and other devices to dry completely. Drying may take days, depending on how wet the system is and on external temperature.
- When all electrical wires and accessories are dry and clean, proper testing must be done to ensure the integrity of the electrical system.
- Appliances must be completely dry and serviced or checked by a licensed electrician or service center agent. **Do not turn on damaged electrical appliances.**
- Be observant and watchful after powering up your house to immediately detect any abnormalities.

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HYUNDAI GRAND STAREX WINS TOP AWARD AS

All eyes were on Hyundai during the 2009 Auto Focus People's Choice awards held last October 15, as the country's Top 4 automotive brand was honored with a total of six awards, including the famed Automobile of the Year distinction for its award-winning Grand Starex. Dubbed as Hyundai's legendary passenger van, the Grand Starex also emerged as the year's People's Choice in the Full-Size Van category, continuing its stance as the leading people mover in its class.

The Genesis Coupe, a new addition to the stable of cutting-edge automobiles of Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), the official distributor of Hyundai in the Philippines, was another revelation of the winning heritage of Hyundai, South Korea's largest automaker—and the world's fourth, as the Genesis Coupe bagged the 2009 Sports Car of the Year award.

From the Lancer up last year, the Tucson reigned as the 2009 Compact SUV of the Year—a triumphant first for HARI in the said category, echoing Hyundai's growing popularity and reputation as the best-selling SUV in the market today.

The Hi also shared in the spotlight by bagging the runner-up award in the Sub-compact Sedan category and Best Entry for the Style award in the Auto Focus Specialist Medical's Choice Awards, while the Santa Fe, Hyundai's stylish SUV, was declared a runner-up in the Mid-size SUV category.

Crème dela crème

Created by Sunshine TV, one of the most respected automotive media in the country headed by esteemed motoring maven Mr. Butch Dalisdis, the Auto Focus People's Choice (AFPC) Awards is a tribute to the automotive industry's cream dela crème, as judged by the motoring public. Votes from its official website, including partner media outlets in print and radio determine the public's favorite automobiles in each of the auto industry's 12 major categories, plus the top pick as Automobile of the Year.

Hyundai immediately ensured great promise as a favorite brand, taking vote in the Full Size Van category of the AFPC Awards in 2006—the same year that Sunshine TV launched this prestigious event! This success was duplicated in 2007, and in 2008, the Hyundai Starex notched a three-peat win in the Full Size Van category, with the Grand Starex as the new title holder.

In the 4th year of the AFPC Awards, Hyundai continues its trailblazing wins, boasting of new victories not just in the Passenger Van category, but also in the Compact SUV and Sports Car categories—proving that time and again, Hyundai remains a force to be reckoned with, and an industry challenger undaunted in the face of competition.

HYUNDAI

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2009 Auto Focus Automobile of the Year

Record-breaker

They say that adversity causes some men to break, and others to break records. Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), the official distributor of Hyundai vehicles in the Philippines, did exactly that—they broke records, at a time when the financial crisis threatened the industry and stories of unbelievable strength swept the country. Call it irony, but for HARI, now recognized as the "top 4 automotive brand…destiny had a hand in it.

In a celebrated awarding ceremony spearheaded by HMC last April in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, HARI emerged as the 2008 most outstanding distributor for its excellent performance in all areas of distributor operations, beating 11 others that vied for the top recognition as HARI achieved high scores in major categories that include Organization, Customer Satisfaction, Training, DEP Evaluation, and Warranty. Two months following the occasion, HARI made the country proud during the Hyundai Motor Global Distributors Convention awarding ceremonies, as it received the 2008 Award of Excellence for its outstanding performance in four major categories, namely Sales and Marketing, After-sales, Customer Relationship Management, and Dealer Management, crowning HARI as the Asia Pacific Distributor of the Year for the third time in a span of only four years. Apart from this prestigious token of honor from Hyundai, HARI was also bestowed with the 2008 Best DEP Award for its tenacious implementation of Hyundai's DEP (evolving the customer-centric culture of Hyundai's corporate identity in showrooms and dealer operations, as well as the distributor's commitment to DEP by certifying a total of 28 dealers in Hyundai Elite dealer status.

Adding to its string of victories for its competent distributorship operations are awards garnered from the 6th annual i1 Awards held last July. The i10, Hyundai's small yet feisty 1.1L GLS A/T car emerged as the 2008 Editor's Pick Mini Compact Car of the Year. The Genesis Coupe, Hyundai's own benchmark for affordable 300-horsepower sport coupes, garnered acclaim as 2008 Editor's Pick Sports Sedan/Coupe of the Year, reaffirming the Korean automaker's success-ful strides in this sophisticated segment. And for the third time, the Hyundai Elantra, with its latest model, the 2009 VGT-powered Grand Elantra, was hailed as the Editor's Pick in the Fun-Size People Carrier category. With HARI focused on its drive to keep evolving as its top-of-mind priority through its constant introduction of innovative automobiles and adherence to excellence in managing its distributorship, expect that Hyundai will remain a brand to watch out for, poised to outshine the competition—and above all, win as the people's automobile of choice.

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Breaking the dam

WE CANNOT BLAME THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN Luzon if many of them drew the release of excess water from the San Roque Dam, as the exact time Typhoon "Pepeng" was battering their provinces, as the main cause of the great flood that claimed more than 400 lives, displaced hundreds of thousands of residents and destroyed billions of pesos' worth of property. But blaming the dam is one thing, calling for its decommissioning is entirely another.

We will not talk about the politics of aviation. While it is true that some high-profile politicians have discovered, all too suddenly, the virtues of a class action suit against the dam operators when filed on behalf of a non-rich population, we do not pursue the sincerity, the unmitigated desperation, of other officials who blame the dam. When, say, Pangasinan Gov. Amado Espino Jr. called for a study of legal options that his government can file against the National Power Corp., which owns the dam and the spillway, we can take him at his word.

Indeed, a study must be made, but to determine with scientific precision exactly how many parts of Northern Luzon became, like Marikina City and Rizal province under "Ondoy," an apocalyptic landscape. There is no dispute that excess water was released from San Roque Dam. The question is: What role did the release play in the unprecedented flooding? The study must take into consideration the fact that Pepeng made landfall to Luzon thrice—that is, it went back to hit the mainland twice—and altogether stayed over the affected provinces for about 10 days.

Thinking of the excess water as the main cause of the flooding is unalike; to many people trapped in the water, it simply makes sense. But it is important—or, not only important, but crucial—that a scientific determination be made, because future policy will be based on its results. We are reminded of the valiant action of Mayor Ricardo Revira of the devastated town of Rosales, Pangasinan, who upon receiving an advisory last week that the San Roque Dam was about to release excess water, took a look for himself by climbing a bridge. He told the Inquirer then: "I'm now on top of the bridge and I'm trying to assess the volume of water flowing in the river. I think the river can absorb the water being released now." Admirable, but ultimately risky for his town, because instead of relying on precision instruments he depended on his gut feel, his own intuition.

An official of the Department of Science and Technology has tried to calm the discussion above the level of common sense, by pointing out the likelihood that many factors were involved. "It increased the flood waters, yes, but to be flooded to a dangerous resolution. Evidence showed the amount of precipitation was just too much." Undersecretary Graciano Yumul said. "With or without the dams, there would have been a flood. There was no way the mountains could absorb all that water. It's a combination of several sources and reasons."

The release of excess water must also be weighed against the alternative: not releasing the water when it reached the maximum allowable depth could have resulted in the dam springing a leak or, worse, approaching collapse. That, surely, would have had staggering implications.

All this has led some politicians and some special-interest groups to call for a decommissioning of the San Roque Dam. That resolution requires a leap across the abyss of logic. A Nagsaze spiderman pointed out correctly that shutting down the dam would entail enormous costs, which carry their own nightmare scenarios. San Roque Dam helps irrigate part of the country's rice bowl, tens of thousands of hectares planted to the staple, and generates as much as 580 megawatts of electricity. Shutting down the power-generating plant in San Roque Dam (operated by the San Roque Power Corp.) will not prevent another Ondoy or Pepeng from wreaking havoc on the country, but it will quite literally plunge the island of Luzon into darkness.

Perhaps the hidden agenda behind all this talk of decommissioning is to lay the predicate for a nuclear power plant? That, as we all know, has its own nightmarish consequences.

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Politics depriving Laoag of good medical care

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHAT A GOOD COUNTRY LIKE THE PHILIPpines suffers most from is a lack of good hospitals. Sick persons sometimes have to travel very long distances to get medical help in hospitals. And sometimes the patients do not reach the hospital alive.

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office has a program of giving ambulances to local governments units. But when would those ambulances take the patients when there are no well-equipped hospitals nearby? They have to take emergency cases two or three provinces away or to faraway Manila. And needless to say some patients are dead by the time they get there.

So the ambulances are used by the mayor, or his wife or children or house help, to go to the hospital or to go marketing or shopping, or to go to Metro Manila.

That is why we see so many ambulances from the provinces running around the metropolis. Sometimes the ambulance is used by the mayor to smuggle drugs.

Many Filipinos are in pain/ health, or die before their time because there are not enough hospitals to take care of their needs.

Do you know that patients from the provinces who are suffering from end-stage kidney failure have to travel all the way to Metro Manila to be dialyzed to extend their worried? Kidney patients call the office weeks in advance to find out if there are any machines available. If they are not hemodialyzed (a process of cleaning the blood of toxins on a machine, a cleaning that the failing kidneys can no longer do). A patient with end-stage kidney failure has to be dialyzed three times a week (or how long my boss PLDT Co. P15,000 per session), so that patients from the provinces have to rent rooms in Metro Manila to stay there.

So I cannot understand why Gov. Michael Keon and the Ilocos Norte Provincial Board are blocking Laoag Mayor Michael F. Farinas from upgrading the Laoag City General Hospital (LCGH).

The upgrading of the LCGH has been ongoing since 2002. It is part of Laoag's Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), approved by the City Council, reviewed and approved by the provincial board, and approved by the Department of Health Secretary Francisco Duque commended Farinas for wanting to upgrade the city hospital and provide quality and affordable health services to his constituents.

Laoag had set aside P30 million for the upgrading of the hospital and has secured a P150-million loan/loan from government banks and an unconditional (ati) upmay. That was during the governorship of Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The governor is now Michael Keon, a cousin of Marcos Jr., and he and the provincial board are blocking the improvement of the LCGH.

"Both hospitals will offer the same medical services and facilities," Keon said in a letter to the Department of Health. "It is important to note that the proposed LCGH is only 18 minutes away by car from the provincial hospital. The proximity of the two hospitals to one another plus the same services and facilities will result to what can only be described as 'cutthroat' competition as both compete for the same market share of patients/clientele."

The provincial board disapproved a resolution of the Laoag City Council giving Farinas authority to secure loans from government banks. Disapproved also was a resolution for the construction of the upgrading of the LCGH and even wrote the Development Bank of the Philippines to discourage it from giving the LCGH a loan.

Why are they doing this? Any other local government official would be happy to have more than one hospital in his territory. In the town of Laoag and Ilocos Norte, patients cannot be accommodated in the present hospitals.

In a letter to Duque in 2008, Farinas reported: "At present, the Laoag City General Hospital sometimes cannot accommodate patients seeking medical intervention due to lack of space. The situation also holds true with the Governor Roque Ablan Sr. Medical Hospital (GRASMH) where some patients stay in alleyways and corridors, and the Marianos-Marcos Memorial Hospital (MMMH)."

Duque replied that the LCGH should remain a level 1 general 50-bed hospital (not secondary hospital) subject to review by the DOH. Again, why are they doing this to Farinas and the people of Laoag?

The answer can only be petty politics, a case of one upmanship. Keon doesn't want Laoag to have a better hospital than the province because of his rivalry with Farinas. Keon sought a bitter political battle against a close relative of the mayor, former Gov. Rudy Farinas.

And for the vain hospitals being close to each other, Metro Manila has more than a dozen hospitals, public and private, within minutes of one another, and there is still crowding in all of them. In Houston, Texas, there are many hospitals beside one another and the city is famous all over the world for its outstanding feats in medicine, especially in the field of cardiology it is the home of the Texas Heart Institute and the Baylor Hospital, among the pioneers in heart transplants (my doctor-daughter studied there before getting a fellowship at the Yale University Medical School in Connecticut).

As for the disapproval by the provincial board, the Department of Interior and Local Government said the act "went beyond the parameters of review set by the Supreme Court."

"The authority of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (Provincial Board) to review the acts of its component municipalities (cities) is limited to reviewing only (1) ordinances or (2) resolutions approving local development plans and public investment programs, per provisions of Section 56(c) of the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160)."

Clearly, the governor and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan had no legal authority to disapprove the project.

Worrisome rise of Chinese nationalism

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

MOST OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND ESPECIALLY the Philippines, used to fear China because it was communist. Today we must fear China because it is going nationalist, and in a very big way.

Filipinos had a tiny glimpse of Chinese nationalism two years ago, with the naval skirmish over Hasbud Reef, 130 miles off the coast of Palawan. Today Hasbud Reef remains to be the same bauds. By 1999, what were supposed to be mere fishermen's shelters had been built up into permanent high, with satellite dishes, antiaircraft weapons systems, anti-aircraft projectiles, a helicopter landing pad, and whatever capable of handling naval vessels. More recently, Filipinos were awed by the political clout of J.H. Corp. in the national broadband scandal that confined the country with Secretary Romulo Neri's and whistleblower Jun Lozada's revelations, yet ZTE apparently isn't easy to the only big league by Chinese standards.

For some there have been moments that have framed Chinese nationalist fervor. The spectacle of the 2008 Beijing Olympics was a rallying point for national pride. Apparently ordinary Chinese citizens were infuriated by those pro-Tibet, anti-China protesters trying to wreck the Olympic torch from its official carriers as they ran through the streets of London, Paris and San Francisco.

The "friendly fire" bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia in 1999, which killed three Chinese nationals, provoked public protests that led to the storming of the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. And in a symbolic episode, at a Dr.Dre's auction, the Chinese attending bidded refused to pay for Chinese artworks that he said had been plundered from the homeland.

"Love of country" is influenced by deep-seated feelings among Chinese [easily shared by Filipinos] over colonial shaming that fueled nationalist fervor against Japan. The May Fourth Movement of 1919, inflamed nationalist sentiments have apparently remembered. During my recent trips to Beijing, I noticed the big posters celebrating the "China's Peaceful Rise." Logically, as both China's economy and military grow, it has a dilatory signal to downplay fears that they are out to contest US superpower dominance.

However, it might be difficult locally to explain the distinction between what is communist and what is nationalistic, since Filipino reactions have habitually packaged the forces as partners, for whom, in the local libation say, the nationalist revolution is just one stage in the journey toward a utopian future.

It will also be difficult for Filipinos to begrudge Chinese nationalism either, especially since Filipino nationality aspires to the same: what they call "love of country." Indeed, Filipinos will creatively identify with China's lifting its citizens out of poverty, raising the standard of living in barely 30 years, and after decades of being dismissed and pushed, gaining the world's respect as the third largest economy, and the second most powerful military force.

What should be disquieting for the Filipino is not the face of Chinese power, but how China has used that power—against minorities in Tibet and in Xinjiang, against the passive acceptance over the death of their children, rather from contaminated milk formula or from Sichuan's sub-standard school buildings made by cost-cutting contractors in collusion with corrupt state regulators. By now, too, I have learned of the connections with China's military and intelligence, than the Tiananmen Square[well is not a topic for public conversation.

In other words, whether in Manila or Beijing, it is the deliberate misuse of the noble sense of nationalism that is most dangerous. It appeals to legitimate grievances over past injustices, but channels the resulting outrage to similar grievances over present injustices. Market reforms have led to the diminishing of the welfare systems and the "iron rice bowl" guarantee, the widening income gap between rich and poor, urban and rural, environmental degradation, and their social costs, and—all so familiar to Filipinos—crony capitalism that has enabled government officials and their big-shot cronies and businessmen to extract state enterprises and agricultural lands. But hey, look who's complaining now about those Capitalist Roaders!

Worse, reports show that nationalism has throbbed with the same fervor of trade in the big city dailies, and the provincial—literally in the boonies. In other words, same native hate but different reason. It seems lessons were learned from that unpleasant, but subsidiarily.

When I lectured at The Hague Academy of International Law on the South China Sea dispute, until a predominantly European and some African audience, I noticed an identifiable group of Asian faces and, in later conversation, I learned they were mainly Chinese doctoral students studying in the finest universities in Europe and the United States. They were all bright, alert, personable—and very nationalistic. I remember the generation that has enjoyed the bounties of Deng's economic reforms three decades ago. I recall having told myself in 10 years, these are the guys who are the Philippines' counterpart of the world will be. Fast-forward to the side of the negotiating table. We need to build up our own generation of experts to match them.

Filipinos are caught in a quandary. We need more China for what it has achieved, yet fear more China for what it has achieved. Our future will be in brotherly arms together, and confidence and reclaiming of their past glory will not bode well for its brethren across neighbors.

* * *

Comments to passangfortesan@gmail.com

Estrada's world of make-believe

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

SAID MARY SHE, "I'D VERY RESPECTFULLY TELL HIM to remain my second to-have."

Last Wednesday, Joseph Estrada tried to repeat history when he declared he was running for president for the second time. He said his bid was "the last performance of my life."

When he first ran for president, Estrada presented himself as the champion of the masses. To give his inauguration historical symbolism, he took his oath at Barasoain Church in Malolos, on June 30, 1998, apparently unaware that the choice of Bara soain placed out the ironic contradiction between his claim to a union of the masses and the events.

The first revolutionary Republic was inaugurated in Barasoain in 1898. The Malolos Republic was a creature of the elite-led revolution, made up of the educated Filipino upper class and middle class pro-spects of the late 19th century.

It was the elite that packed the church during Estrada's inauguration. The church was too small to hold the audience, and Estrada addressed an overflowing crowd outside. He delivered his speech at the Independence Grandstand instead.

The historical symbols presented in his inaugural speech, apparently unaware, of the hollowness of his soaring rhetoric: "The common people have waited long enough for their day to come. That day is here," Estrada said, as though he was recalling the words of Andres Bonifacio, the leader of the Katipunan as the hero of the underdog and underprivileged of Philippine society. He said that the "new day of the Filipino masses" had arrived and that one of their tasks was finally healing them.

When he took office with a strong populist aura, the Philippines was struggling to survive from the 1997 Asian financial meltdown, and emerging from the crisis has damaged than other countries in Asia. There were high expectations among the masses, the majority of the people, that the presidency would distribute more equitably the national wealth and lift the poor from their poverty.

Estrada's inaugural address also contained ominous contradictions, indicating that his friends and relatives would not be given special favors in public transactions, and it would be futile to use his influence.

Two years later, Estrada plunged into a corruption scandal, involving pay-offs from proceeds of illegal gaming. The scandal triggered the impeachment of Estrada in October 2000. By January 2001, Estrada was removed from office by People Power sparked by the suppression by the Senate, acting as the impeach ment tribunal, of evidence on Estrada's bank transactions.

Filipinos were astounded by the ruthless of Estrada's fall. Evidence produced at the impeachment trial served as the basis of criminal prosecution which led to his conviction on charges of plunder in 2007 and imprisonment. He was quickly pardoned by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Estrada makes his second bid for the presidency against the judicially documented corruption of his short-lived presidency. His first presidency is now public record, known to most Filipinos, and the record undisputedly defines him as damaged goods. He is rationalizing himself with a consolidation of programs and policies without changing the corrupting paper chase he is well-versed in and the means. He is asking for a second chance to do better without any basis for such expectations.

A few thousands of the ballot crowd that he likes to believe is his die-hard constituency came to attend his declaration of candidacy at Plaza Ilaya de Hernandez in Mariveles, Tondo. He delivered the same stale message he gave in June 1998. They cheered him although they knew he had failed them, and many of them could be poorer and more wretched today than they were in 1998.

"This is the last performance of my life and I will not fail you," Estrada told the cheering crowd. "I swear to run in the coming elections as I am capable of service to the masses as president of the Philippines."

If Estrada believes he can win election against the documented record of his failed presidency there is no iota of evidence to warrant such optimism. Opinion surveys so far put him among a batch of contenders struggling to catch up with the front runner, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III who scored 60 percent, among a field of less than 10 contenders in the September survey of the Social Weather Stations.

Estrada's cast constituency, the urban poor, are bearing the same stale and unfulfilled message, and it is hard to believe that they will continue to be deluded and be misled again in the elections.

Estrada certainly made good his promise that he would do him his candidacy if he failed to unite the opposition. Despite his efforts, the opposition remains fragmented. Sen. Panfilo Lacson, and the second wave of masters are opposition people. The opposition men—Aquino, Sen. Manuel Villar, Sen. Francis Escudero, Vice President Noli de Castro, Estrada, Sen. Jejo Cordon—are battling to win the votes of the middle class. They are divided by the vote among themselves, but fortunately for them, the probable administration standard bearer, Interior Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, is eating votes only in the margins. Estrada is losing most potential and he badly, far behind as he continues in field even steady to the illusion that the masses have kept faith with him, and that his men of the masses are up to still posture for mobilizing popular support.

Estrada's bid for "last performance" of his life-time is not fascinating but tragic-farce. The time was spun out of the world of make-believe that is the movies. Estrada has lived in that world for too long.

'Gaba'

I AM QUITE DISCOURAGED THAT AFTER THE DISTRICTS Typhoons "Ondoy" and "Pepeng," I have not heard too many people explaining the calamities as gaba or divine punishment.

When I was doing my matured thesis in the early 1980s about traditional medicine, gaba was a common explanation for sudden illness involving that could be inflicted on the individual, a neighbor, household, even entire towns or cities. Many towns ostracized, for example, on holding a fiesta each year because they believed that if they didn't, then they would be causing gaba, which would come in the form of disastrous weather, or an epidemic.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

There was one quaint note to this perceived connection between fiesta and gaba. In 1972, there was an outbreak of gastroenteritis in one of Quezon City's districts that did hold its fiesta. So, what were "wrong"? Some of the residents immediately proclaimed it as gaba because part of the fiesta celebrations involved what they felt was a sacrilege: a fantasy-play with ladies dressed up as the Virgin Mary, Mary Magdalene, Reyna Elena and others.

Today, gay homosexuals are commonplace and while some priests and bishops occasionally protest, no one really believes these drag queens events still bring gaba. If anything, the events have become fund-raisers, bringing in much needed income for many charities.

The word "gaba" itself seems to be falling into disuse. However, variations on this belief seem to persist. My graduate students, often stationed in the Internet, tell me that one woman had written in her blog that Ondoy was God's punishment for our evil ways. She was blasted with scathing blogs.

I'm trying to find sympathy for the God-hating woman, but I'm always hit the idea of a foolish-and-frustrated type of divine manners is quite serious, a way of turning people into conforming with particular norms. In the case of the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, the popular version going around is that the two towns were wiped out because of sexual impropriety, in particular homosexuality.

That interpretation has been disputed by biblical scholars, who say that the towns were punished for inhospitality to visitors (the two angels), rather than for sexual behavior. I don't want to go into details about the debates since it would require an entire column, but certainly Sodom and Gomorrah figure prominently in the Filipino's imagining of what gaba is all about.

God's favorites?

While gaba itself isn't mentioned too often these days, I do remain concerned about another variant on this idea of divine displeasure being aimed disasters. I want to address one of my graduate students, Elisa Ong, for pointing this out in one of my classes. She noted, with alarm, that after Pepeng struck, there were people writing in their blogs that we should thank God for sparing Metro Manila. She found that rather odd, if not unkind, because such statements chose a lack of concern for the areas that Pepeng did ravage.

Elisa wondered if these people were saying that there was a God who chose to spare Metro Manila while striking out at Northern Luzon. This idea of thanking God for sparing us and having "there" is a form of ingratitude back to gaba.

We all need explanations for misfortunes. But even in this high-tech, fast-paced world of ours, when we encounter explanations for the many adversities we face, we continue to carry baggage from the past, where the supernatural was constantly being used to explain the otherwise unexplainable. Note how the word "misfortune" originally carried connotations of "bad luck."

We have to be careful about this baggage. When we ascribe events as a "blessing in disguise" or as "providential" (thy-welcome God Provides), we have to be sure we don't end up planting over someone else's "misfortune" which became something good for us. The kind of thinking is a form of exploitation, the idea that we are favored, at the expense of others.

Schadenfreude

Another variation on gaba comes as a kind of schadenfreude, a German term that is sometimes explained as the pleasure we feel over the suffering of others, for some deed like that misfortune said I agree. We actually have something similar in Tagalog, which is "buti nga" (it serves you good for him/her)—which suggests that someone deserves to suffer because of some misdeed, and that the suffering might have been sent as a form of divine retribution.

Last year after the disastrous earthquake in Southeast China, newspaper reports referred to the many parents who lost their only child. I was shocked when some Filipino friends told me, "You see, that's what happens when you have family planning and a one-child policy."

There's a parallel when Filipinos point to Western countries with their large number of elderly in need of care. Some of my friends say that this is the "price" the West pays for having pushed family planning, sometimes adding, "buti ni gyud sa hasa" (it serves them right). Is it right to say that we have no children, who can then work in the West to take care of their elderly?

Statements like that show the perils of religious overzealous. Thinking ourselves as privileged by a God who plays favorites, we fail to recognize how our lack of response to the parenting part of us is destructive and ungrateful, turning the care of other people's elderly, while our own elderly are neglected. Now, are we going to argue, illogically, that our elderly are being punished by our lack of responsible parenthood?

Gaba is an anachronistic concept, coming from an era when people believed in vengeful gods who had nothing better to do than punish humans. Contemporary religious theologies say supposedly evil people, the most dramatic example being the events supposedly sent by God to the Egyptians to force them to free Moses and his followers. But the "evil" people were always "the ethic," supporting an even Greater, yet more decent by God while all others were to be annihilated.

With that kind of thinking, humans are forced into situations of trying to constantly placate or bribe the gods with offerings and rituals—and fiestas.

I am not saying that we should just look at disasters as passing events over which we, or the gods, have no control. Disasters, like typhoons, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, as well as diseases and epidemics, should remind us of our vulnerabilities as well as the role of human folly and arrogance in creating the conditions for these disasters to wreak such great havoc.

* * *

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Road to the future

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

other customers elsewhere.

* * *

BUT that is not about trafficking itself. Rather, this column is about the efforts of a group of former entertainers to organize, improve their situation, and forge new visions and directions, with themselves as primary actors and decision-makers.

"Although the law was changed in 2005 and several thousands of young Filipina women from going through harsh experiences in Japan," writes Takeda, "the Japanese government has not yet provided any support for distressed and re-matriculated Filipina women returning to the Philippines from Japan." And while the Philippine government provided largely lip service in easing for the returning women (they did provide temporary and limited shelter for those women who died in Japan), it has been left to a number of non-government organizations to provide the women counseling, advice, livelihood and help in dealing with the Japanese government and their former Japanese partners and their half-Japanese children.

One such group is the Batis Center for Women, founded in 1989, which in 1996 realized that the problem of entertainers was a "social welfare" group and helped put up Batis ASAKE in 1996. Batis Center and Batis ASAKE were among the groups I approached for help in 2003 when I was doing research for a book on trafficking. It was through them that I got to meet some survivors of dangerous situations through the world of trafficking.

* * *

TEN years after its founding, the officers of Batis ASAKE, which has since grown into an independent organization, felt they needed to go through an exercise that would allow them to, in the words of Ums Aivina Yap of the Asian Social Institute, "analyze their present situation, reflect upon their strengths, identify various areas for improvement and plan their next activities."

Previously, members of Batis ASAKE took part in peer counseling sessions, helping each other "talk" their way through their trauma and mixed experiences. They also helped each other find their talents or hard-to-resist Japanese partners and seek greater support for the upbringing of their children. The members also embarked on "advocacy" campaigns, primarily through a theater group that they formed, to educate communities on the plight of women trapped in the sex industry and to counter the stigma women faced on their own respective barangays.

The group also held income-generating projects, such as a "bake sale" of their produce, goods and other products with the support of local and Japanese partners, a candle shop that provided votive candles for Baclaran Church but which has since been discontinued, and at present is cutting and sewing bandanas, banking on the experiences of members.

* * *

If non-Takeda who provided were what's called the Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) process, involving the women themselves in looking back and assessing the situation of their organization. Various tasks—a resource map, a timeline, a cause-and-effect diagram, to name a few—helped the women see the situation. The process culminated in the use of the Participatory Appreciative Planning Approach (PAPA) in set time-bound targets for themselves, plus self-monitoring activities. Out of this came goals, and many set action plans, including naming the persons in charge of every phase of the project.

Thus, the officers of Batis ASAKE—Victoria Llanes, Melody Baguisi, Carmela Bettoni and Rhoda Arenga—made sure that in celebrating their 3rd decade, they would not only look back and re-trace their history but also look forward with concrete plans and a set of priorities at least for the decade to follow.

Up in smoke

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

PEOPLE DISASTERS LIKE "ONDOY" AND "Pepeng" strike, losses are immediately reckoned by the number of casualties and damage to property, infrastructure, livestock and crops. Other losses, equally precious, are seldom recorded, like damage to heritage sites, structures and monuments. Then there are art, antiquities and books in private collections washed away by disasters.

After the Battle for Manila in 1945, three men, the distinguished and ever kind city bombed by Legaspi on the occasion of Rajah Sulaiman's kingdom, was no more. Almost everything within the walled city was razed to the ground, while mounds, in extra-metro, the remainder of the capital lay in ruins.

For understand those who mourn the dead, the maimed and injured, but those who mourn other materials are here differently. As a historian, I am also one of those who mourn the treasures of its ancient churches and libraries.

Often while on a paper trail that leads to a dead-end, I wonder whether the master material I am seeking was among the casualties in the destruction of Intramuros. The National Library, National Museum, and whatever office it was that preserved our archives, left copies for what is left and gone for what can never be replaced.

Two decades ago, I was given access to the papers of Basilio Llanes that had survived the Philippine Revolution, the Philippine-American War and even the Battle for Manila in 1945. These were lovingly preserved by Llanes's son, the architect Andres Luna de San Pedro, and passed on to the American scholar Glenn Anderson after he died in 1982. Glenn Anderson suffered four strokes and Llanes's papers to the government or give-away prices, but the government did not bite, so she took everything back with her to New York City where she and the Luna collections remained because everyone must have decided on rebuilding the country after the war.

With funding from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the Andersons returned to the Philippines in 1997 and the Luna collection was finally transferred to the National Library. Glenn Anderson's book on Luna, published by the University of the Philippines Press in 1998, was the first to make use of the Luna papers.

Unfortunately the writer Alfredo Navarro and his wife came into the picture and the entire collection was returned to Manila.

Most of the documents in the Center Luna collection are now in the National Museum, a transfer from the defunct Far East Bank and Trust Co., which naturally kept a few paintings that have since been passed on to the Bank of the Philippine Islands. Other parts of the collection are in the National Museum, the rest of the collection, including studies, sketches and drawings, can be tracked down for study and research in the hope that a new and lavishly illustrated book on Luna will see print in the near future. That is the good news.

Now for the bad news, aside from the now-lost-post-Luna paintings, the Llanes-Luna collection also had material on Andres Luna de San Pedro the architect and work deserves a book. The big surprise is that this collection had more documentary material on Antonio Luna than Luna. We all know about the ill-fated general of the Philippine-American War, who was assassinated in Cabanatuan by Emilio Aguinaldo's henchmen in 1899. Even the standard work, Wenceslao Retes' "The Rise and Fall of Antonio Luna," what is left of it, is based on letters, diaries, school notebooks, and other documents in the Luna-Llanes collection that cover the life and times of the man before he met his appointment with destiny during the Philippine-American War. Even the general's blood-stained uniform was preserved.

The bad news is that when I was given access to the collection, everyone was focused on the paintings. That is understandable because these were worth a lot of money. Nobody was interested in the papers of Antonio Luna. Sometime in 1982 after seeing over the papers of Andres Luna in the other room as I was going through the Antonio Luna papers, attracted by his sweaty and beautiful penmanship. Before he became a notorious general, Luna was a student of law and studied in the Paris Institute in Paris. His notebooks contained drawings of what he saw under the microscope. His Antonio student notes were extant, and so were love letters from a lady who pursued him to Europe (and Singapore).

I was allowed to take home one box of documents to use one, and being a student on allowance, I only photocopied what I thought to be important. I returned everything promptly and the box I took home was returned to the owner.

I would come back for the rest when my allowance came the following month. Two days later during a storm, lightning struck the fire trap mounted today at the Heritage Art Center on Luna Street, Lahug. The Luna paintings were saved, but the papers were all gone. Not photocopying the entire archive is one of the many regrets of my life.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@pcmail.ph

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DepEd Order 90 to ensure students will become idiots

LETTERS

EDUCATION SECRETARY JESLI Lapus issued Department of Education Order No. 90, series of 2009, directing elementary schools to restore teaching and learning time. Lapus explained that the order was issued in response to the increasing number of students and to the public clamor for more teaching time, as well as for the safety of young pupils.

Good-sounding sophisticated words like these are the last refuge of scoundrels. Lapus' order is a ploy to cover up the failure of the Arroyo administration to provide enough classrooms and teachers for the country's growing population.

According to DepEd records, in 2004, 526 elementary schools implemented the double shift, while 72 schools operate triple shifts. The situation worsened in 2005 as more schools joined the bandwagon.

Lapus' order is a ploy to cover up the failure of the Arroyo administration to provide enough classrooms and teachers for the country's growing population

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190 Luzon stores found overpricing

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in Central Luzon found nearly 200 business establishments in the region liable for overpricing of basic commodities during the onslaught of successive typhoons from late September to early October.

Ricardo Nagtalon, business regulation and consumer protection division chief of the regional DTI office, said the 190 establishments discovered to have sold products that were overpriced, mislabeled or underweight during and after Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng" slammed into Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog and Central Luzon have been issued notices of violations.

"They were penalized and warned. If they violate [orders on price ceilings] again, they would pay higher [fines] or we will terminate their licenses," Nagtalon said.

Nagtalon said the penalties were based on the types of violations and also of the establishments. The maximum penalty, he said, was P500.

The DTI, he said, collected a total of P87,000 in fines from 130 establishments. The remaining establishments have yet to pay the fines.

Nagtalon said these establishments will be closely monitored to ensure compliance with President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to put a cap on prices of basic commodities.

The government declared the entire country under a state of calamity after Ondoy's devastating floods on Sept. 26 submerged Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog. Following the declaration, the automatic price control provision of the Price Act of 1992 was activated to prevent unscrupulous traders from taking advantage of the situation.

The price ceiling covered small and big retailers alike—from neighborhood sari-sari (variety) stores to wet market stalls to big supermarket chains.

Nagtalon assured residents of Central Luzon, where several towns have endured floods since late September, that there is enough supply of basic commodities like coffee, sugar, dried fish, soap and other food items since roads have been opened and the transport of these items had normalized.

"Vegetable prices in the region have normalized, too, since roads to Benguet were passable again," Nagtalon said.

The transport of vegetables from Benguet, a major supplier of highland vegetables in the region, stopped for at least three days last week after landslides blocked roads to and from the Cordillera.

The lack of supply has pushed the prices of available vegetable stocks from Benguet by as much as 300 percent.

Rich de Guzman, 35, said he usually goes earliest to the camp he sells every morning. But when vegetable prices soared, he did not run camera for a week.

"Before, I get to buy a P1 pack of carrots. During the typhoon, however, it jumped to P50 which I could not afford," De Guzman said.

He said the price of carrots dropped this week when deliveries from Benguet resumed to normal.

DTI reports said necklace, laundry soap, coffee and instant noodles were among the most commonly overpriced items. *Charlemen Cayabyab, Inquirer Central Luzon*

AERIAL PHOTO
Offloading in Pangasinan taken from a Philippine Air Force helicopter shows rescuers loading out of what used to be streets in the province. The PAF helped evacuate some residents in the province by helicopter. NOEL CELIS/AFP/File

Politics keeps Baguio from collecting trash

BAGUIO CITY—GARBAGE DISposal woes when Typhoon "Pepeng" hit the city have made up-dated its pile up, owing to a political conflict that prevented the city council from approving funds for waste disposal.

Vice Mayor Daniel Fariñas on Thursday appealed to councilors claiming cap in the aftermath of Pepeng to keep their garbage indoors "for as long as you can," to weather typhoon Supreme Southern Luzon.

Frustration

Saying he has grown frustrated by the garbage crisis, Fariñas revealed several councilors, who blocked core funds at the week's council session, before they voted to reject a P20-million allocation to local Baguio landfill to a landfill in Capas, Tarlac.

Each councilor is entitled to a choice project worth P1 million under a city priority development program, but some councilors complained that the local finance committee had by-like-ly chosen the location A, had not heeded their concerns at all, Fariñas said.

20,000 tons

He said around 20,000 tons of trash are stored in garbage trucks or are piled at a yard outside the old Baguio dump in Barangay Irisan because of the delay.

Baguio generates approximately 300 tons of garbage daily, but the trucks fail if a time when the city had tourists and more garbage to haul.

The volume of trash also increased due to rubble and debris that resulted from floods and landslides.

The few available garbage trucks continue to collect trash in downtown Baguio but these are deposited outside the central business district until they are taken to Tarlac, the locations learned.

The city government requested the allocation to be released this week to pay a commercial landfill operator.

Baguio has been hauling out waste to Tarlac since May last year, when the Irisan dump was closed.

Demands

Several councilors who voiced against the garbage funds indicated that they wanted to increase the pressure on the city government to speed up the construction of Baguio's own environmental landfill, Fariñas said.

Other councilors vowed the city government to invest all of Baguio's funds instead to build materials recovery facilities (MRFs) or waste recycling areas, he said. Mharel Cabrera, Inquirer Northern Luzon

'Ondoy,' 'Pepeng' spare town in storm path

LUCBAN CITY—SURVIVING unscathed—both good and bad—is Lapuyang, in the remote island town of Jomalig in Quezon.

Good, because Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng" spared it from their wrath. Bad, because it means only that climate change is making its will elsewhere.

Jomalig Mayor Rodolfo Jose recalled that typhoons Ones, Conchoneros, which usually fazed the Central Luzon, regularly visited his town.

"Whenever a typhoon struck Real, it would always pass by our island," Tuna said in an interview on Saturday.

The typhoons were so far apart that the official couldn't remember the name of the last.

"Our island used to be part of a typhoon path," Tuna said. "The typhoon track has apparently changed."

Reports had said Ondoy and Pepeng were just among the many signs that global warming is starting to take its toll.

Jomalig Councilor Lilibeth Li said residents were so used to storms that they no longer cringe in fear, but hasty to preparations.

"Our sons are all glued to our radios for the latest weather bulletins," Li said.

Fishing boats would be anchored and animals put in safe places.

"We don't have mountains. What we're afraid of are tidal waves," said the councilor. "Thank God, we have not experienced that. We pray that it will remain that way."

Li recalled that "Reding" was the strongest typhoon to hit the island in 1970.

"When the typhoon left us, the whole island was flattened. Coconut trees were left with no palms. We could see our neighboring villages from her every," Li said.

Jomalig, with a land area of 9,939 hectares or 38.7 square kilometers, is one of the smallest and remotest inland municipalities of Quezon province. It is separated from the nearby island municipality of Polillo-mainland by the Philippine Jomalig Channel.

Most of the islanders depend on farming and fishing.

Despite having an airport for small planes, Jomalig is rarely included by provincial and national officials, except during election campaign periods.

The island can be reached in five to six hours by boat from Real town in northern Quezon or seven hours by sea speed boat from Infanta port. Emilio T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

EARLY morning in Tiaong, Quezon, with Mt. Banahaw in the background. Some parts of the province, including Jomalig (in map), were spared from the wrath of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng," but some officials believe global warming is starting to make its presence felt. EDWIN T. MALLARI JR./INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

German who kept 'harem' wanted

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—A 36-year-old Taiwanese who ordered the arrest of a German who had been accused of secretly taking care of his five illegitimate children was pay.

Judge Francis Ba first who issued an Jesus Lemuera a warrant of Benguet Prosecutor in Tuba town, to answer child abuse charges, filed against him by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The bail set for the violence charge was pegged at P120,000 but no bail was recommended for Taiwanese's acts of depriving his children access and living conditions. The Germans remained at large.

Lemuera, 46, was earlier declared as "persona non grata" by the Tuba town council after it was learned that he had lived with several women and fathered 11 children who he kept in his house at Ibiangan in Benguet Prosecutor in Tuba.

The DSWD earlier sought a hold departure order against Lemuera.

All the women lived at one time or another with Lemuera in his house. One of them cited the first woman charged against the German since the court no longer take the bail-without bail in cases since 2004 when Lemuera took her to a parlor. She said she was 15 when she met him.

Delmar Carabin, Inquirer Northern Luzon

NEWSBRIEFS

■ BAGUIO CITY

Bird delays flight

A CEBU PACIFIC flight bound for Manila was delayed for 4 months hours on Wednesday after a bird-like object hit one of its engines.

Cebu Pacific air said in a statement that Flight 5J 871, which left Manila around 6:45 a.m. and arrived at the Baguio airport around 8 a.m., struck a bird.

Birds could get electrocuted or engines, which were very dangerous for airplanes.

The airline said the bird was spotted in the delay of Flight 5J 842, the flight from Baguio to Manila.

Flight 5J 842, with 149 passengers and scheduled to depart at 5:25 p.m., was able to depart at around 11:30 p.m. after a spare batch flew in from Manila, according to the airline's statement.

Jhalyn B. Barcia Jr., Inquirer Baguio

■ ZAMBOANGA CITY

Roadside bomb kills Marine

A MARINE officer was killed while two others, including a civilian, were wounded when an improvised explosive device planted by the Abu Sayyaf exploded in Barangay Tagpao in Patikul, Sulu Wednesday morning, the military said.

Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, Western Mindanao Command chief, offered condolences to the slain officer. But he said the injured civilian was Pfc Jerome Cabalan.

Dolorfino said the slain officer was leading a patrol when the bomb exploded around 10:30 a.m.

The Abu Sayyaf-linked Abu Sayyaf group commonly employs a combination of remote and timed detonated devices that killed two Americans in Basilan.

Jolly Alpeta, Inquirer Mindanao

■ BACOLOD CITY

Villagers warned of croc

P.O. DINALEA Councilor Antonio Gualberto on Tuesday said residents of Barangay Bilay have been cautioned against going into the river amid reports of a possible sighting there.

Two crocodiles were reported seen near an abandoned fishpond Sunday and on Tuesday.

People in the village, Brgy. Pampanilan, said it left a pathway similar to the size.

Jesus Gonzaga, community environment and safety officer, said reports by officials were not confirmed that these crocodiles were in the river.

He said, however, that there was no cause for alarm.

Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

■ TAGUM CITY

5 dead in road crash

FIVE PASSERS were killed and eight others wounded when a passenger van crashed into stalled container van in Mabantenan, Compostela Valley.

Police said the container van was carrying sawmill in Mawab from Compostela town to Davao City.

Supt. Joel Coveña, Mabantenan police chief, said the passenger van was headed for Mawab when it hit the container van that was stalled in front of them on the road.

Pinglan Lim, Inquirer Mindanao

A HEPACT-built center for barangay health workers rises in Barotac. Barotac doctor Ian Joseph Avila cites as their thought it was a campaign headquarters for the province's governor, Douglas Cagas, and his newfound ally, Sen. Manuel Villar. The reason for the wrong impression are obvious. Some people wonder when rubber politicians splash their names onto projects that are built, not with their money, but taxpayers'. RHONDA MICHELLE MONTEMAYOR

GMA allies in E. Visayas defect to another party

By Vincent Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—AT LEAST 600 ALLIES of President Macapagal Arroyo in Eastern Visayas, led by Biliran Gov. Rogelio Espina, have defected to the Nacionalista Party (NP) in a continuing shift of alliances (that sources close to Malacañang said was part of a deal to shield Ms Arroyo from persecution when she leaves office).

Espina, Biliran provincial chair of the Lakas-CMD-Kampi party who among 600 politicians, including 33 from Biliran, who—took their oaths in new memberships of the NP during ceremonies on Wednesday in the Asia Convention Center in Tacloban City.

Espina, who chaired the Lakas-Kampi in Biliran for the past nine years, said he joined the NP because he believed that the party is the one to go to join.

The NP was the lone rival of the Liberal Party during the days when the country was under a two-party system before the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was a member of Nacionalista started him and extinguished all political opposition to his 20-year one-man rule.

Espina, now on his last term, said while Ms Arroyo was an ally, he decided to join NP because the President would running anyway in 2010.

Biliran is an Arroyo administration bailiwick with eight municipalities.

Espina brought with him Biliran Vice Gov. Lucila Carnu, his sister-based mentor Rosalyn Espina-Parra, his twin brother Rodolfo, who is mayor of Kawayan town, three other mayors, 40 municipal council members and seven barangay federation presidents.

Other politicians who joined NP included former Leyte board member Hermilio Pajanos, Mayor Hazel Po of Calubian town and Mayor Linda Dy of Julita, all from Leyte, and Mayor Anne Bollet of Montpellier town and Mayor Daniela Gabrera of Jiabong town, both from Samar.

They took their oaths before NP standard-bearer Sen. Manuel Villar with NP leaders Gilbert Teodoro and Lawyer Adel Tamano witnessing the event.

The NP said the defection was the fourth done en mass by erstwhile administration allies.

Party officials claimed that a total of 427 politicians from Eastern Visayas have joined the NP.

On Wednesday, Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund "Lray" Villafuerte Jr. and other officials of Camarines Sur took their cache as NP members in a glitzier show than included getting some celebrity photos.

Barotac del Norte Gov. Nilo "Ted" Barrete and Union del Sur Gov. Douglas Cagas, also close allies of Ms Arroyo, are now also NP members, said Villar.

LEGENDA CASE

Casino men demand pay

SUBIC, BATAAN, Philippines—Nervous workers of a defunct casino hotel and casino that was closed by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) here in July assailed their former employer for the non-payment of their separation benefits.

"Some of us have been waiting to get paid since 2006. Now that it has closed down, we are no longer sure why they should delay our payment. We needed [cash] for this," said Jeanne Dimpaldian, spokesperson of a group of former employees of the Legend International Resorts Limited (LIRL).

"It is not that much to ask don't deserve this treatment," he said.

LIRL ran the Legenda hotel and casino that was closed by SBMA due to debts of more than P800 million.

"Our families are suffering due to our [unemployment]," he moaned. "Most of us worked for 10 to more years in Legenda before it was [re]closed. Huge debts that it could not pay," Dimpaldian told in a statement on Sunday.

"We were let go with little warning and no assistance to help us cope with our sudden unemployment," he said.

He said the workers were suspended and asked not to work for six months without pay. Robert Conanga, Inquirer Central Luzon

Mosquito-borne disease stalks villagers without access to docs

DAGOHOY DE ORO CITY—A DEADLY BUT curable disease has been stalking upland villages of the city and many patients experienced concern over the lack of medical attention.

Alnik, a 42-year-old mother of three, is among 69 persons stricken ill with filariasis in Barangay Dumalilhot, adults.

Filariasis—commonly known as elephantiasis—is a tropic parasitic disease caused by thread-like worms that are transmitted by mosquitoes.

Its symptoms include swelling of the tissues.

Alnik said what worries her most is that health workers seldom visit her village as people with filariasis barely get medical attention from the city.

"They only remember us when election time nears," she said bitterly, adds.

Jun Gabriel, spokesperson for the Department of Health's Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD) in Southern Mindanao, said medicines For filariasis are readily available at the city health's office (CHO).

He said each town health workers should refer the villages to treat residents.

"Every should be mass treatment every year. The CHD will conduct it while we provide the medicine," Gabriel said.

He added that Dist. the disease "cannot be treated in one sitting only."

Bethlehem Imanuine Glenn (BIG), Gabriel said, should be given to people, who show symptoms of the disease while BIG and Albendazole are given to infected persons once a year for five years.

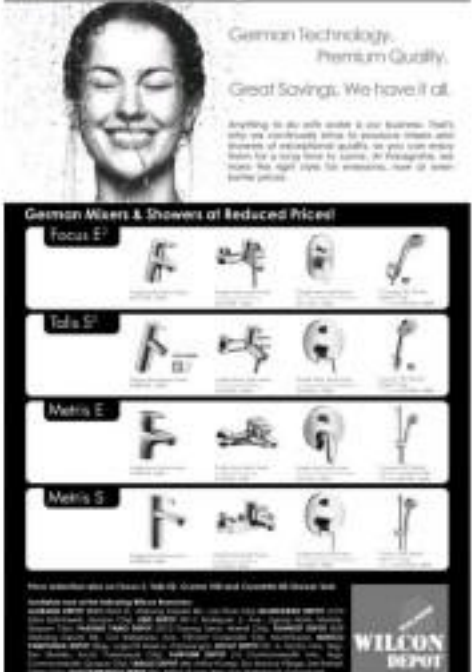
"I don't think the CHO did exactly the [mass treatment] despite the medicines we provided them," he said.

City Councilor Dante Jilo, chair of the committee on health and social welfare, said "mass treatment is ongoing especially in the upland barangays."

"It's possible that residents are showing symptoms just now because they were infected 10 years ago. Symptoms would only show up after 10 years," he said.

Jilo also gave an assurance that the CHO was doing its best to help the villagers and that there are enough medicines available.

"People in the hinterlands lack knowledge about the disease that's why part of the CHO's task is to educate them," he said. Marnie B. Carvajal, Inquirer Mindanao



3,000 stuck in evacuation centers

ILOILO RANGE, LAGU...—Three weeks after the onslaught of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" at least 3,000 people are still packed in evacuation centers and can't return to their homes.

A report of the municipal office assistant center said six shelters are still filled with evacuees.

A total of 756 families are still displaced.

In Barangay Tadlac, 418 families are cooped in a portion of a subdivision or at the old barangay hall. The report said.

TOP officials of the Bureau of Immigration, led by Head Marcelino Libanan, (3rd) Commissioner Jose Argeo's duties to distribute relief goods to flood victims in Laguna. PHILSTAR

The initial evacuation center in the Tadlac Elementary School, cannot serve its purpose, so it has been flooded since Laguna Lake swallowed some parts of the village.

Tents temporarily serve as the homes of the evacuees.

The report said 4,345 homes are still submerged in water, some of which are now abandoned.

Officials of the municipal office are still distributing relief goods.

The Laguna Lake Development Authority has earlier reported that the water would subside in five to seven months. Rimer Lagarde, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Church hits Erap stand on 'jueteng'

LEGAL WOES: Former President Joseph Estrada faces a two-pronged battle in his comeback bid...in the courts and in the polls. GERVACIO ESPIRITU

By Dona Pazzibugan

CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADERS SAID Joseph "Erap" Estrada should not run for president again if he is just going to legalize the illegal numbers game "jueteng."

"It's a very bad move to legalize jueteng. He should not run for president if that's his thinking," Antipolo Bishop Ambo Bastes said.

The Church strongly opposes any kind of gambling, saying it destroys society's moral fiber and exploits the poor who are led to depend on luck.

Another bishop, Jose Oliveros of Bolinao, assailed Estrada's "twisted" logic that legalizing jueteng would lift Filipinos out of poverty.

"Only assuming a twisted, flat conscience wins in jueteng; in fact, more people lose than win, so where is the poverty alleviation there?" Oliveros said.

Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo said Diat cautiously to Estrada's claim at a forum on Tuesday attended by five presidential aspirants, legalizing jueteng would not solve poverty.

"He has a wrong view because how can jueteng solve poverty? Our country will end up worse if we have a leader who thinks that way," Pabillo said.

Exploitation

Archbishop Emeritus Oscar Cruz, one of the most vocal Church leaders when it comes to the issue of poverty, said the numbers game only exploited lowly bettors and promoted corruption among government officials.

Cruz said Estrada should not run for president again "because we know what happened and why he was removed from office"—a reference to Estrada's plunder conviction for accepting jueteng kickbacks, among others.

Cotabato Bishop Emmanuel Dinoso said that while legalizing jueteng could be a "pragmatic" approach to the underground gambling game run by criminal syndicates in collusion with local authorities, it was not the moral solution.

Added Dinoso: "I don't agree with Estrada's policy statement on jueteng.

"As a vice, it will hasten further the degradation of the moral fiber of the individual and society. In short, it will not [address] the root of economic poverty. It will make us poorer materially and spiritually.

"It may get popular support, but ultimately it will not solve our continued problems of poverty which does not roll simply for economic solutions."

LEGARDA: Her song and dance, please

Loren set to announce veep bid today

Turn page #1

...ver the song-and-dance type of political campaigning but a "humanitarian advocacy campaign."

Legarda had disclosed in recent interviews that she was being courted by a number of presidential hopefuls...the last three being Bamboo, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD and Sen. Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party—to be their running mate.

Still an open book

Governors allied with the administration floated last week the possible candidacies of Teodoro and Legarda. But on Thursday the latter dismissed the idea by saying that as an opposition senator, she would "definitely run with the opposition."

Yesterday at the Rajahan sa Intramuros forum, Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri said that while Lakas Kampi-CMD's choice of presidential candidate had "already been settled," that for the No. 2 post was "still an open book."

Zubiri said Teodoro would be formally proclaimed Lakas-Kampi-CMD standard-bearer in a national convention on Nov. 22 immediately after Cebu City.

The ruling party's national executive committee selected Teodoro, a nephew of Danding Cojuangco, as its standard-bearer as early as Sept. 16. But that selection still needs confirmation by the entire party, Zubiri said.

He said the party membership should also select Teodoro's running mate.

Valid political party

The party, a merger of the administration parties Lakas-CMD and Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino, can now hold a national convention for the purposes of the 2010 polls because the Commission on Elections has upheld its validity.

In so doing, the Comelec threw out the petition filed by Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia, who founded the old Lakas-CMD with then presidential candidate Fidel Ramos in December 1991 for the 1992 elections.

"The Comelec has already handed down an en banc decision that Lakas-Kampi is a valid political party. So that's good news—a welcome development for our party. We can move forward and consolidate," Zubiri said.

The national convention will be an occasion for another presidential hopeful and loyal party member, Manuel Fernando, the chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, to control Teodoro's selection.

Dueling committed

In an interview with ABS-CBN, Cojuangco-Cojuangco said his father was expected to attend Legarda's declaration today at Rajahan in Manila.

He said his father was "committed" to support the Teodoro-Legarda tandem and the rest of the NPC candidates in the 2010 elections, and hinted reports that the tycoon would also back Teodoro, a former member of the NPC.

The lawmaker reiterated that the NPC did not kick out Teodoro, and that it was the latter who left the party in order to pursue his presidential ambition with Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

FARE WELL!

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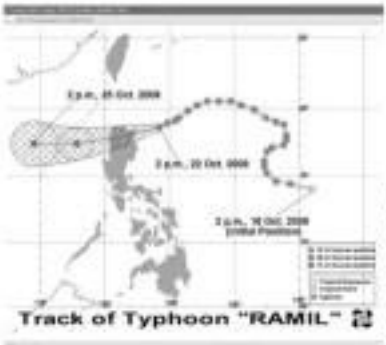

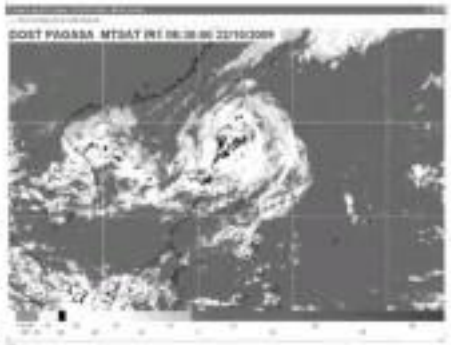

ERRATIC Typhoon "Ramil's" erratic movements has made weather men "dizzy." Gaining speed yesterday after battering off northern Luzon, the typhoon is expected to make landfall in Cagayan this morning instead of the earlier forecast of Sunday.

'Agony of waiting' for 'Ramil' takes toll on Cagayan folk

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

TUGUEGARAO CITY—(3RD) Jittle and residents of Cagayan yesterday expressed exasperation over the prolonged wait that they have to endure for Typhoon "Ramil."

The weather bureau earlier announced that the typhoon expected landfall, originally forecast on Thursday, was moved to Sunday as it moved slower toward the northern tip of the province.

At 5 p.m., Thursday, however, officials of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) announced that Ramil moved faster and said the typhoon would hit land today (Friday, Oct. 23).

The "agony of waiting" is already taking its toll on the experts—of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) because of the inevitable use of additional resources due to the delay in Ramil's arrival, said Edna Antiz, chief of the social welfare and development office in Cagayan.

"Imagine all the expenses of being out of our houses and staying here [at the PDCC headquarters] during a 24-hour monitoring of everything that is transpiring, not to mention the resources that are needed in evacuation, at least 200 people who are involved in this counter operation," she said.

Antiz was concerned that the delay could deplete PDCC resources.

Preparations for Ramil have been in full swing since Monday, Inquirer said, and with the prolonged wait, PDCC personnel "would not help but sometimes just wish that the typhoon arrive already since it is coming anyway."

"I guess Ramil sure have prepared we were on he got scared," Antiz said in jest.

Getting impatient

Officials of towns reported to be hit by the typhoon also expressed the same feeling of impatience.

"It's a little bit frustrating because it is very upsetting to see especially for those involved [in disaster management preparations]. It is at the same time scary because based on our experience, the slower a typhoon moves [in and out of an area], the deadlier it can usually get," said Agusti Mayor Ismael Bumatay.

"Is it coming yet? Has it made a U-turn just like [Typhoon] Pepeng?" Armando Cortez, a shoe repairman in Tuguegarao's boat, nine district, asked this reporter.

Others, however, felt that the delay was due to divine intervention, as it was supposedly God's way of giving the people a few more days for a chance to recover from the devastation wrought by Typhoon "Pepeng" and enable them to prepare for the next calamity.

"Our prayers have been answered. We cannot really be made to suffer from one typhoon after another," said vegetable vendor Corazon Maldonado, 52, a resident of Dodan village in nearby Peñablanca town.

Direct hit

Aside from Agusti, other northern towns that the weather bureau predicted would suffer a direct hit were Sanchez Mira, Gonzaga, Santa Teresita, Baggao, Camalaniugan, Lallo, Abulug, Pamplona, Sanchez Mira, Ballesteros, Claveria and Santa Praxedes.

With alternating sunny and overcast skies since Wednesday, many remained locals, who have been expecting bad weather as early as Tuesday, thought the typhoon had already left.

School officials confused

Ramil's slow approach has also caused confusion among school officials.

While classes in all levels were suspended to have been automatically suspended after Cagayan was placed under Storm Signal No. 3 on Wednesday, classes resumed in five of the eight campuses of Cagayan State University (CSU).

"We have not suspended classes because we see that there is no need for it. The prevailing weather conditions do not justify such suspension, even if Signal No. 3 is declared here," Fr. Ranilfo Aquino, CSU vice president for academic affairs, said as the city enjoyed clear skies on Thursday.

In Baras Bisaq, except for occasional strong winds and rain, life remained relatively normal for Bisaqs-Norte for days.

The only telltale sign of an approaching storm could be seen in the presence of rescue and disaster management groups at the Lasang City Hall and others.

Members of the City Disaster Coordinating Council also took their usual posts at the City Hall's main entrance to accommodate typhoon-related reports. Rubber boats and other life-saving devices have been displayed at the compound.

Danilo City Hall, heavy equipment, payloaders and caterpillars also stationed on nearby streets waiting for the signal to be dispatched.

Supply shortage

Somewhere, Iran, a food attendant at the city cafeteria, said Ramil had yet to arrive but already, a supply shortage has begun because a mixed crowd of marine passengers and government employees swooped in the food station early.

"We have run out of lunch because of the unusually high number of customers," Iran said employees who were queuing for lunch.

Other employees also swooped in the city's semi-grocery and bought additional household supplies that could last until the typhoon passed.

Nora de Roxas, a city employee, said she was stocking up on food and other home items good for three days as part of her "24-hour disaster preparedness kit."

Residents in flood-prone areas have been warned to move to higher grounds before the typhoon starts dumping heavy rains.

Pacop Lake swollen

Ifugao Mayor Romulado Clemente said officials had started relocating some from the swollen Pacop Lake.

"We are looking for ways to further lower the lake's water level because this night until again and submerge homes nearby," Clemente said.

He said several homes around the lake remain flooded because of it(pcpg).

In Isabela, village officials underwent training in rescue and relief operations in preparation for Ramil.

At least 16 families in Cabagan town were evacuated due to the swelling of the Pinacanauan and Cagayan rivers.

The Magat Dam in Ramon town stopped releasing water due to the absence of rain in its watershed area in Ifugao, Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya, said Saturnino Tesoro, Magat Dam and reservoir division chief. With reports from Cristina Arandilla, Edmundo Gabat and Villamor Hapay Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

'Ramil' to slam Cagayan today, packing 160 kph winds

By [illegible]

ed in an area where the Cagayan River meets the ocean and is surrounded by a thick seawall.

But it was the waters and the sea that fishermen in the area like Alfredo Mayoralcos feared suspiciously.

"There are small waves, it could get bigger when the waves comes," Mayoralcos said as a fresh stream of salty waters sprayed his white frame.

"We are used to waves because they come every year. Every time, we get nervous. But [rod is] used to," he added.

Mayoralcos said he had already hoisted his small boats. But he said he would not leave it behind to go to an evacuation center.

"We will just ride the winds, and brace ourselves. As for our boats, we will search them, too, when the storm comes," he said.

Slightly weakened

Pagasa's 5 p.m. weather bulletin said Ramil was forecast to move west-northwest at 13 kilometers per hour.

Six hours earlier, Pagasa announced that Ramil's speed had slowed to 9 kph, prompting it to forecast that the typhoon would make landfall by Sunday morning.

While gaining speed, Ramil slightly weakened, packing maximum sustained winds of 160 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 195 kph.

At 5 p.m. yesterday, the eye of the typhoon was spotted 380 km east of Aparri.

Farther inland

In Barangay San Antonio, adjacent to Barangay Punta, a group of women at the beach affair watched the sea nearby.

"This is just low tide. Just wait for high tide. The waves could be strong enough, and reach our houses and even farther inland," said Lorie Cabral, 44.

Her neighbor Melly Sotto, 50, said she and other residents in the area would have to leave their homes at night.

"We fear high tide are it is around 6:00 p.m., that's when we go inland, either to an evacuation center or homes of our relatives. At day time, we come back, and watch the sea," Sotto said.

Collapsed seawall

Residents have good reason to watch the sea as much as they can. A part of the seawall in Barangay San Antonio collapsed into the sea as the height of Typhoon "Pepeng."

In Barangay Minsan, residents were frantically trying to erect a wall of sandbags to keep the waves from coming in and damaging their houses.

Residents there told the inquirer that the seawall of Barangay San Antonio was supposed to be extended to their barangay but the funds, they said, were used to build the pier.

Jobenjo de la Cruz, a driver for the local government, said only an old seawall built during the Japanese occupation stood between houses and the strong waves. The old seawall is a good 20 meters behind the new one.

"In the old days, there were still a lot of beach beyond the old seawall. In fact, people used to have houses there. Now it's all water and the waves are now crashing into our houses," De la Cruz said.

Stones on roofs

The roofs of houses in Barangay Minsan are all weighed down with various materials, from old tires to large stones. Pieces of bamboo crisscross already fragile looking galvanized sheets.

Minsan resident Betty Ruiz drove her by house when Pepeng struck. Strong waves washed away his seaside home.

"We already tried to construct a wall of sacks here. But look, that wall is all gone," Ruiz said, pointing to remnants of sacks littered on the beach.

Will the local government provide help? "Who knows? I don't know," he said.

"Even I got very dizzy with this typhoon," Ifly quipped in Filipino toward the end of the 5 p.m. press conference.

Pagasa's forecast earlier yesterday indicated that Ramil was expected to move over Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea—one pushing it to the west toward Hong Kong, while the other was breaking its path.

Because of this, Ramil was mostly stationary over the Pacific, moving at 5 kph most anywhere.

At the 5 p.m. briefing, Alfo said the high pressure area over Southern China "goes way and allowed the typhoon to accelerate."

Asked if Ramil could still intensify, Alfo said there was little probability because "it is already accelerating ahead and it's very near land already."

Alfo further expressed optimism that Ramil would further weaken once it hit the Sierra Madre mountain range.

He said the eye of the typhoon was expected to be over land for 12 hours or less.

At the very least, "in this point before its landfall, Ramil's most likely much superpythonic intensity's supremacy," Alfo said. He noted that it had peaked at 185 kph a few days ago.

Storm Signal No. 3

Storm Signal No. 3 was hoisted over the Batanes group of islands, Cagayan, including Calayan and Babuyan Islands, Apayao and Ilocos Norte.

Storm Signal No. 2 was raised over Kalinga, Isabela, Ilocos Sur, Abra, Mt. Province, Ifugao, Benguet, La Union, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and Aurora.

Storm Signal No. 1 was up in Pangasinan, Zbales, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Bulacan, Pampanga, Pinatubo and Northern Luzon, including Polillo Islands.

Ramil was expected to be 60 km southeast of Aparri on Friday afternoon.

By Saturday afternoon, the typhoon is forecast to be 270 km west of Ifugao, Ilocos Sur, or 270 km northwest of Laoag City and 370 km west of Vigan, Ilocos Sur, by Sunday afternoon.

Because of bad weather, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government has issued an "unclosed travel alert," advising its residents to exercise caution when traveling to the Philippines. With a report from Jerry E. Esplanada

Gov't shoulders cost of leptospirosis cases in 5 private hospitals

By [illegible]

physical support to cope with the "unprecedented" number of leptospirosis cases.

Unprecedented

"This is unprecedented [worldwide]. There's been an situation like what we have in the Philippines where within less than a month's time we have doubled or tripled the average number of cases in a year's time," Duque said.

"However, patients cannot just go to these private hospitals and avail themselves of this treatment package because only those who will be referred by DOH hospitals due to congestion will be accommodated by our pre-identified referral private facilities," Duque said.

He said all the participating hospitals must be equipped with beams and peritoneal dialysis, intensive care units and ventilators. They should also set up a special ward and allot additional beds in anticipation of referrals.

The hospitals that signed the MOA are Capitol Medical Center in Quezon City, MCU-FdC Technical Medical Foundation Hospital in Caloocan City, Manila Doctors' Hospital in Manila, Los Baños Doctors Hospital and The Medical City in Pasig City.

The MCU-FdC Technical Medical Foundation Hospital said in its average treatment cost per patient for a complicated case was P134,000, and P7,800 per patient for an uncomplicated case.

Rat urine in floodwaters

Government hospitals, however, treat leptospirosis patients for free.

Leptospirosis is a rare but life-threatening bacterial infection contracted by swallowing or absorbing contaminated water through cuts in the skin. The infection is commonly encountered in floodwaters tainted by the urine of rats and other animals.

Symptoms include fever, a red rash, headaches, redness of the eyes, jaundice, muscle and joint pains, vomiting and fatigue which may appear as early as two days after exposure or as late as 21 days.

From Oct. 1 to Oct. 21, there were 1,962 leptospirosis patients admitted in 15 hospitals in Metro Manila, 168 of whom have died.

Duque said the data did not reflect the complete picture of reported leptospirosis cases brought about by flash floods that hit Metro Manila, Region 4-A and recently Regions 1, 2 and 3 because of back-to-back Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng."

"This data is not complete. This is for tracking purposes only so we can see how fast the cases have been rising," the health secretary said.

130M still living in flooded areas

While hospitals were reporting new leptospirosis cases daily, the number of new patients was not as high as during the second week of October, he said.

"While we are a downward trend, we might see a surge in higher numbers again as we breeze that with Typhoon "Ramil," which will cause more rains and more flooded communities and will present added risk to our people," Duque said.

With 1.28 million residents still living in flooded areas, the DOH estimates 3.7 million people "are at high risk [of exposure]" to the disease and up to 3,800 could eventually get infected, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The WHO earlier ordered 1.2 million people to take antibiotics to further limit natural disasters against disease.

Early treatment

Doctors advise early recognition and treatment within two days of the illness to prevent complications in the kidney, liver and in the brain that can kill the host.

Seven other hospitals are expected to enter into the arrangement, namely St. Luke's Medical Center, Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, Philippine General Hospital, Quirino Memorial Medical Center, Cardinal Santos Medical Center, Dr. Rafael Lazatin Memorial Hospital, Philippine Children's Medical Center, Pasig City General Hospital, Dr. Jesus Delgado Memorial Hospital, Chinese General Hospital, and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital.

In a statement, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday that the Philippine government had "requested a Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network mission to provide assistance in the management of the outbreak of leptospirosis as a result of the continued exposure of affected populations to floodwaters."

The WHO regional office in Manila said it was "promoting orders for leptospirosis rapid diagnostic test kits." With a report from AFP

DO-IT-YOURSELF SURVIVAL Residents of Barangay Maarin in Aparri, Cagayan, place sandbags on the shoreline which has been eroded by strong waves triggered by Typhoon "Ramil." (AFP)

HOST INVITED The Maarin folk dread the coming of Ramil but want it to strike already as "it is coming anyway." Strong waves have been pounding the seaside community the past few days. (AFP)

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UN biscuits give rescuers a 'high'

From page A1

senior provincial of the province's rescue workers and disaster response team, who said the rations gave them extra strength as Ilongots prepares for yet another typhoon.

Many have begun to ask for more, convinced that the biscuits, brought in by UN relief teams as part of the world body's bid to landslide and typhoon victims, are what they use smoked up to be.

The volunteers have been working round the clock on roads and slopes in various Ilongot towns to prevent landslides when Typhoon "Ramil" hits shore this week.

Small-scale miners working overtime to clear debris from a water tunnel in the landslide-hit community of Little Binuangan in Barangay Pugo in turn swore the biscuits made them alert and awake.

"It really boosts our energy," said Dayton Sagayaya, a small-scale miner from Tabuk town.

Taste good, too

Sagayaya, 40, is the team leader of the Camp 6 Explorers' Small-Scale Mining Association, one of 64 small-scale mining groups belonging to the Ilongot Federation of Small-Scale Miners Inc. (IFSSMI) that volunteered to work on the tunnel.

Around 50 small-scale miners have been working in batches to clear the 60-meter tunnel buried by landslides in the wake of Tropical Storm "Pepeng."

Minerie Iwata Philex Mining Corp. were also on hand to help the small-scale miners in clearing tunnel, which had served as the village's drainage before the landslide hit.

"The biscuits tasted good. They would make the stomach full and keep one awake and ready to work until the debris," IFSSI president Leonisa Kantoreng said.

In demand

The UN World Food Program distributes the biscuits in relief missions worldwide.

The United Nations delivered 500 boxes of biscuits here on Wednesday and rescuers working here said in Ivugot, Bugnias, Kapangaoan and Bagabag towns received their shares.

Sandy Calimlim, executive assistant at the office of Gov. Nancy Ferguson, said the office had been swamped by requests for more of the biscuits.

He said one Ilongot mayor wanted more boxes to be delivered to his town.

The biscuits' wrappers are marked "Not for Sale." Each pack contains four biscuits and weighs 100 grams.

Danger areas

Seven Philippine Navy personnel arrived at the provincial capitol on Wednesday carrying rubber boats for use in rescue operations.

Ferguson said he had asked the Navy to bring the boats as part of the province's preparations for Ramil, aside, from the trucks, of course.

Ferguson gave strict orders to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and the municipal disaster coordinating councils to monitor areas prone to landslides or are potential sources of landslides.

Among the danger zones are Little Binuangan and Ilongot Central in the capital town, Ambaguio and Bo. Sibu in Tabbay town, Aritabang in Bagabag, Lusdan and Lantap in Ivugot, Poblacion in Maddugue, and the critical areas along Maharlika Highway between Aritt and Bagabag towns.

Missing body

At least 77 residents of Little Binuangan were killed in the Oct. 8 landslide that wiped out a section of the mountainside community. Policemen were still looking for one body even as the miners were busy digging the cadaver.

Ferguson said the retrieval could become moot as if Ramil D'Chow were not drained.

"The waters could go anywhere in the nearby villages and we do not want that to happen," he said.

Comelec: Erap may run until complaint is filed against him

Frances Mangosing

come from Estrada's own backyard, the political opposition, which remains divided among at least three known presidential aspirants.

"I'm sure many of the people belonging to the other parties who will be affected by his entry will just be too happy and can expect no one to do what he will be disqualified," Bello said.

No worries

But two opposition parties—Nacionalist People's Coalition (NPC) and Liberal Party (LP)—are not intimidated.

Salvador S. Escudero III, Rep. Ben Hamadam, the NPC spokesperson, said the party had no problem with more candidates throwing their hats in the ring.

"If you're asking if the NPC will contest Erap's candidacy, we have no policy of doing that," Escudero said by phone. "We welcome it because in any democracy, more candidates running means more platforms of governance to choose from."

Asked if he was worried that Estrada might erode the NPC standard bearer's votes, Escudero said the party was confident that the people would choose its candidate for his platform of governance.

He also said Agusan del Sur Rep. Rodolfo Plaza would be included in the NPC senatorial slate despite Estrada's announcement that the latter would be on his presidential slate.

The NPC has yet to formally announce its standard-bearer but it is widely believed to be holding Sen. Manuel Escudero. (*See story on Page A1.*)

LP welcoming

The LP whose standard-bearer, Sen. Benigno Aquino III is leading in the surveys, also has no plans to pose a legal challenge to Estrada, according to its spokesperson, Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III.

"The LP does not intend to question the rights of President Erap to run for president," Tañada said in a text message.

He said he believed it was too early to say what effect Estrada's would have on Aquino's chances, and that the party is confident to send a credible team to compete on its ground.

"We welcome [Estrada's] victory as the people will have a choice. He consider all candidates formidable opponents and the LP should continue its work hard to keep the people's trust," Tañada said.

Mamintinlup Rep. Rufino Biazon of the LP said that Estrada's run would split the votes of the opposition.

Biazon said he was waiting to see whether Estrada could run for Aquino's head, although he noted that in the latest survey the LP standard-bearer had a "comfortable lead" over the stated President.

'When the time comes'

Estrada's declared intention to again seek the presidency will test the constitutional ban on reelection for anybody who has been elected president.

A former actor with a wide following among the masses, Estrada was elected president in 1998 by an unprecedented vote (around 11 million) but was ousted from office in 2001 on charges of corruption.

After the years of trial, he was convicted of plunder by the Sandiganbayan in September 2007. Mr. Arroyo pardoned him a month later.

Melo hinted that the constitutional ban and the terms of the parties would be discussed "when the time comes."

The filing of certificates of candidacy is scheduled on Nov. 20-30. If Estrada files his certificate, only then may a prosecution protest be submitted to the Comelec, Melo said.

He said the poll body would have to act quickly on the complaint, which, he pointed out, could be stressed by interested parties to the Supreme Court.

Furthermore, the Comelec has to resolve all complaints by Jan. 7 because it has to print the ballots to be used in the automated elections, Melo said.

'Tough opponent'

Speaking at the Kaalam sa Susulo news forum, Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri said Estrada was "absolutely ... a threat" to the administration candidate pinned next to 2010.

Zubiri, a stalwart of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD, said that despite the legal hurdles Estrada was facing, he was "a formidable presidential candidate."

"He is still well loved by the Filipino masses. He is their idol, so he will be a tough opponent," Zubiri said, adding:

"You should never look at him lightly. You should always treat him as a formidable opponent. I hope the planners and strategists of Lakas-Kampi will consider this."

Zubiri refused to comment on whether Estrada was eligible for reelection.

"Even the lawyers can't agree on whether he can still run or not, so the final arbiter really will be the Supreme Court," the senator said.

Cabinet Secretary Sello said Malacañang was sticking to its position that the court should ultimately decide on Estrada's eligibility to re-again.

But he indicated that the Palace would have no problem even if Estrada seeks reelection.

"Let the courts decide and, in the final analysis, let the people decide," Sello said. "I hope I don't sound like bragging but in our case, we rely on the strength of the candidate, not on the weakness of the opponent."

The Lakas-Kampi-CMD standard-bearer, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, remains at the bottom of the surveys on presidential aspirants.

Earlier, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. warned that Estrada's candidacy would give the administration a case of it would stand in the presidential election.

According to Pimentel, if its candidate wins through cheating, the administration can say this is because the opposition is divided.

Say election's 'any reelection'

Mario Bautista, an expert in election law and a former legal consultant of the DND, argued that Estrada was eligible to run and that the Constitution barred only a sitting President from seeking "any reelection."

"If the claim is 'any election,' then he would be disqualified. But 'any reelection' would refer only to an incumbent president," he told the Inquirer.

Bautista warned that an Estrada disqualification would lead to "complications" because of the absence of an existing vice presidency by "substitution."

He said the Comelec should have no discretion in the event of a candidate's death or disqualification. "That's the best solution," he said.

Whereas clause

A "whereas" clause in the president's proclamation of Speaker Ignacio Estrada has publicly concealed to no longer seek any elective position or office."

But the same document signed by Ms Arroyo indicated might that "he is hereby removed to his civil and political rights."

Belliness said the clause showing Estrada's promise not to seek public office anymore was not necessarily a "condition."

"It's just a 'whereas' clause which is not really part of the parable," he said.

Anthony Golez, deputy spokesperson of the President, said Ms. Arroyo had no regrets over pardoning her predecessor.

"It was done out of reconciliation, a goodwill and good gesture coming from the President," Golez said in response to reporters' queries.

"It was done [done as she] was of the moment. The sincerity of the President was there, and it's up to [Estrada] how he would accept that sincerity." With reports from Michael Lim Ubac

Palace swiftly replaces Ebdane; GMA's 'personal choice' takes over

Frances Mangosing

Domingo, 66, previously served as director of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Office, presidential assistant for eastern Visayas, and regional director of the Department of Trade and Industry.

"He will immediately replace Secretary Ebdane whose resignation has already been accepted by the President in order (for him) to pursue his personal political plans," Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said in a briefing.

Cabinet Secretary Silvestre Bello III announced Ebdane's decision that Ms Arroyo acted with unusual haste on Ebdane's resignation.

'Formidable successor'

"From newspaper reports, the resignation is an irrevocable relinquishment of his post with no acceptance from the appointing authority (is that probably prodded the President to come up with a formidable successor," Bello said at the same briefing.

A copy of Ebdane's resignation letter was faxed to the Inquirer by his office on Wednesday night. It bore a handwritten note indicating it was signed by Ebdane a week ago, on Oct. 15.

In a briefing on Wednesday hours before the letter surfaced, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Ebdane had personally met with the President to confirm his political plans, and that the Palace was "awaiting the move" Ebdane would make to formalize his exit.

In the letter, Ebdane said he had decided to "offer myself to our countrymen and seek the presidency." To avoid any conflict with his work at the DPWH, he said his resignation would take effect immediately.

Ebdane said "barriers" in the ruling party Lakas-Kampi-CMD "negated" his participation in the selection process for its standard-bearer in the May 2010 presidential elections.

Ebdane is not a member of Lakas-Kampi.

Too late

According to a party insider, Ebdane had hoped he would clinch the administration's endorsement but signaled his intentions too late. On Sept. 16, the Lakas-Kampi national executive committee picked Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro to be its standard-bearer.

Bello denied speculations that Ebdane was pressured to quit the Cabinet so as not to undermine Teodoro's candidacy.

"It was dated Oct. 15, so it's not precipitate," Bello said, referring to Ebdane's resignation letter. "I don't think he was pressured."

In a press conference he called at the DPWH main office in Manila, Ebdane yesterday said there would be no running mate on his ticket. "This is it. I'll do my best to win solitude (the) hands of law."

Asked about his platform of government, Ebdane said: "I will continue with the infrastructure projects. We have completed the floods and floods infrastructure projects and [now] we have to further work on the Eastern and Western radical highway."

'If I lose, I lose'

"We have to have seven to the production zone to benefit the farmers," said Ebdane, who had earlier served under Ms Arroyo as Philippine National Police chief, defense secretary, and national security adviser.

Addressing the communist insurgency and other security issues would also be his priority should he become president, Ebdane said.

"There should be a ceasefire, national oil spending money on arms, we shouldn't be spending for trainers," he stressed.

But when pressed for details, Ebdane said he would talk at length about his platform on that time. "This is not the time for it," he added.

He said he would resign the presidential derby with meager campaign funds. He would expect support from various sectors and provincial leaders, whom he declined to name.

"I told them I don't have the money and it took me a while to decide to run," he said, referring to his supporters.

"If they don't see me, then [they will] not vote for me. If I lose, I lose. This is a fight of the poor against the rich," he said.

Early this week, a group calling itself Lupon ng Manggagawa (alliance of workers) announced a movement endorsing Ebdane for the presidency.

Personal choice

Domingo, the acting DPWH chief, was Mr Arroyo's personal choice for the job, according to Bello.

The presidential adviser was interviewed by Mr Arroyo before his new appointment during her stopover Tacloban on Tuesday.

The new appointee is "an experienced real estate developer and management expert," and holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Remonde said.

Introduced to the press at the Palace briefing, Domingo said: "This is really a very humbling experience for me because I never thought I would occupy one of the most important de-

partments in the government."

Domingo said he would spend the last eight months of the Arroyo presidency finishing the rehabilitation of roads, bridges, and other infrastructure projects destroyed by the recent killer storms.

Goodbye to golf, poker

"I have to say goodbye to my retired days of golfing and my poker games with my barkada (friends) back home in Tacloban because I am basically a probationer. From the government and have to work double hard," Domingo said.

"Because in these times of crisis, the last remaining 254 days of the Arroyo administration ... will be the longest 254 days of my life," he added.

If at all, Ebdane should be praised for quitting the Cabinet "out of delicadeza (sense of propriety)," Bello said.

"I think, in the exercise of delicadeza, he resigned to avoid accusations that he used his office for political purposes, and in the same time for him to have more concentration on his political plans," he said.

The President and Ebdane met about the latter's decision and "parted ways as close friends because the ambiance was very good and the atmosphere was very cordial when they were talking," Bello said.

QUICK EXIT Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane announces his resignation from the Cabinet to focus on his plan to join the 2010 presidential race during Thursday's press conference at the DPWH office in Manila. PHILIP ESPINOSA

Ex-rebels demanding tribal land release 2 forest rangers

Frances Mangosing

DOLE joins pleas for priest's release as rumors of his death swirl

By Jerome Aning and Jocelyn R. Uy

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR and Employment (DOLE) yesterday joined pleas for the release of 79-year-old Irish priest Fr. Michael Sinnott, saying his abduction set back programs for disabled people.

Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., military spokesperson, said reports that Sinnott died two days ago while in the hands of his captors were unverified.

Fr. Fic Ofilmoglan, regional director of the Bureau of Labor and Employment Services in Caraga, said: "There have been all kinds of rumors but none of them were true ... I choose to hope that he is being cared for by those who are holding him. I do believe they have compassion."

Sinnott, of the Missionary Society of St. Columban, was taking an evening stroll outside his convent in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte, on Oct. 11.

Labor Secretary Marianito Roque said DOLE agencies and personnel particularly those in Pagadian City where Father Sinnott was based were "extremely disheartened" by his abduction.

In a statement, Roque said Sinnott had been actively involved in programs, such as Hanggap Kalusugan, to enable persons with disabilities (PWDs), especially those with hearing and learning difficulties, to lead productive lives.

The labor secretary said that the abduction of the priest, given his old age and delicate health condition, posed a threat to the safety and transparently the existence of Hanggap Kalusugan and his advocacy for the welfare of PWDs.

Priest at great risk

"Father Sinnott is Hanggap Kalusugan. Without him, the foundation and its assistance to PWDs would be adversely weakened," Roque said.

"In behalf of the PWDs, especially the wards of Hanggap Kalusugan, we in the DOLE appeal to the abductors of Father Sinnott to free and spare him from further inconveniences of captivity that can lead to a deterioration of his health, putting his life in great risk," he added.

Sinnott has been in the Philippines since the 1980s. In 2008, he founded and served as coordinator of the Hanggap Kalusugan, a dwelling place for both disables and Christian children with mixed special needs.

Despite his old age and his hunt condition, Sinnott is known for being energetic and consistently attentive in all of his undertakings.

The priest in Lianga del Sur and Lianga del Norte, where the kidnappers were believed to be hiding. Sinnott, were ready to launch rescue operations as soon as the crisis management committee working for the priest's release gave them a go-signal. (*See story on Page A2.*)

"We are careful not to launch yet any rescue operation because we are being discussed by the committee and we are working in areas of the MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front]," he added.

Brawner said the military wanted the MILF helping in Sinnott's recovery to limit its assistance to brokering talks with the kidnappers and not send to troops on the ground so the might not affect "encounter" with government troops.

Police asked to withdraw

But he said that the resolution of Bishop's demands depended on Environment Secretary Lito Atienza. "The DENR would observe due process and the rule of law," Brawner said.

He also said that to exert pressure the kidnapped, he had asked the police and the military-led Task Force Ambala to withdraw its forces from the area where guerillas of the communist New People's Army operate.

"The police would give room for the negotiations and the operation for the rescue of the captives had already been called off," said Chief Supt. Leo Calligasan, Caraga police director.

"We have a time frame for the negotiation and the government cannot be held hostage with any plan. The accreditation and safe release of the captives is paramount," he said.

Calingasan said the talks with the kidnappers were being carried out by church leaders, DENR officials and the police through the indigenous people leaders and relatives.

The seven forest rangers were seized while manning a DENR station inside the Ambalde-Sapit Reserve in Barangay Ambalde.

Illegal mining, logging

They were deployed to stop illegal mining and timber poaching (illanon) for the shortage of water in the city.

The 4,338-hectare watershed has huge deposits of manganese, copper, gold and nickel and extends up to Cabadbaran in Agusan del Norte.

Troops have launched pursuit operations against the abductors reportedly under Ahmad Asali, secretary general of the Guerilla Front 21-B of the Revolutionary Abolution Regional Committee. Heavier cold reporters earlier.

"All of their demands have something to do with reforestation ... they want to raid certain agreements and to be awarded land it-self," he said at Camp Aguinaldo.

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DID YOU KNOW

THE FIRST ice cream parlor in the Philippines was Clarke's, established in 1888 at Plaza Moraga in Binondo, Manila. It also served as a candy shop and café.
Cyril L. Bondoc/Inquirer Research

WORK NOT OVER
Volunteers in Barangay Sto. Niño, Marikina City continue cleanup work in the area almost a month after Tropical Storm "Ondoy" hit the country. RAFFY LERMA

Hayden Kho faces charges

Doc liable for secretly filming sex videos, says DOJ

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DOCTOR-TURNED-SHOW BUSINESS PERSONality Hayden Kho is now facing criminal charges in the Pasig Regional Trial Court in connection with a sex video scandal involving him, actress Katrina Halili and other women whom he secretly filmed during their trysts.

Government prosecutors charged Kho yesterday with the violations of Republic Act 9262, or the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004, for secretly videotaping his trysts with Halili and later causing her "mental distress and anguish" when the videos came out in public.

The Department of Justice (DOJ), however, dropped Halili's complaint against cosmetic doctor to the stars Vicente "Vicki" Belo-Henares, Kho's lover, and Kho's colleagues Erick Johnston Chua, Dr. Wael Hafeez "Rizal" Bautista and Princess Marie Velasco.

The DOJ panel of prosecutors said Halili failed to show enough evidence that Belo and the three others were "accessories" for concealing the video and failing to report the crime.

The panel was composed of Senior State Prosecutor Emilio Fe de los Santos as chair, Senior State Prosecutor Rosanna Elepaño-Bakunay and State Prosecutor Ma. Lourdes Uy.

The sex videos of Kho and Halili were circulated in the internet and later in black market video stores and were led to a Senate investigation.

The videos also confirmed showbiz rumors that Kho and Halili were secretly seeing each other even while Kho and Iinla were publicly known to be lovers.

In his defense, Kho admitted having recorded some of his trysts with Halili, although he said he had no intention of showing it to public. He added that Halili knew they were being recorded in three of four videos taken of the trysts.

Halili had told the DOJ panel that the fourth video that made its way to the Internet was taken without her consent and that she was unconscious on all three occasions she went through "psychological suffering."

Kho also claimed he did not court Halili and that it was the actress who seduced him while they were under the influence of drugs. He added that he could not be charged with violation of RA 9262 because there was no use of force and the mere act of video recording is not a crime. Kho also said he had no participation in the dissemination of the video.

The doctor told the panel that he was also a "victim of circumstance" since a private citizen be identified as Carl Arnold tried to blackmail him to keep the video from the public.

But the DOJ said whether Kho was responsible for disseminating the video was "not the focal point to issue in this case, but rather his act of invisibly videotaping his sexual encounter with Halili."

It said the act of secret videotaping apparently falls within the purview of RA 9262 Section 5 (b) for causing "emotional and psychological distress" and (i) for causing "mental or emotional anguish, pub-

PATTERN ICE

Cops name 2 suspects in mall robbery

By Allison W. Lopez

TWO MORE SUSPECTS IN THE Greenhill 5 robbery have been named by the Southern Police District (SPD).

Chief Supt. Jaime Calungsod, head of the Southern Police District, identified two of the six heavily armed men who stormed the Seiko store in Makati City on Sunday as Rolando de la Cruz and Wailey Macda, alleged members of the Abdul Pirmo robbery group.

One of the store's employees pinpointed to Cruz, the group's leader, as one of the men in bomb squad uniforms during the heist, Calungsod said at a press conference yesterday.

Police also confirmed that the dead suspect, Armando Domingo, was a former member of the New People's Army operating in Cagayan Valley.

Chief Insp. Dennis Macabitad, head of the Makati police investigation division, said another suspect was sure in the incident: hand on blood stains found in a Toyota Corolla (SCB-833), one of two getaway cars recovered by police.

Macabitad, however, admitted that they were having difficulty tracing the last owner of the two getaway vehicles since those were sold through an "open deed of sale."

"Though they discovered that the suspects only swapped the valid license plates of the Corolla and the Honda City (WSH-362), the police official said the number the cars were sold would not show the new owner's names.

"The vehicles were not taken by car thieves. We learned that the Honda was sold five times. We are still tracing the identity of the last owners," Macabitad added.

The Honda City was initially registered in Abon Laboratory Philippines under Antonio Miguel but has been transferred to Joselito de Leon of Tondo on Aug. 3, 2007; Josef Tanseco on Oct. 21, 2007; and to Modesto de Alba on July 23, 2009.

De Alba claimed the vehicle was sold through an "open deed of sale." Macabitad said the Isuzu Highrise (SND-346), allegedly used by the suspects in make their final escape, carried fake license plates.

The police will also conduct a background investigation of the mall's security guards for any indications that it could be an inside job.

Meanwhile, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday ordered the deployment of additional policemen to areas where jewelry shops, money changers and banks abound in the city.

He, likewise, ordered the most conspicuous mobile patrol car of the Manila Police District (MPD) with at least one armalite, saying criminal elements carry high powered firearms.

"Policemen assigned near these establishments must be armed with the necessary equipment so they have a fighting chance against heavily armed criminal groups," he told MPD director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay during a dialogue Wednesday with police and security officials of the city's various establishments.

Lim also issued an order banning the carrying of firearms by VIP escorts, National Bureau of Investigation agents, police or military men, whether or not in the line of duty inside malls or establishments. With Sheila Santos

New suspension order filed against Rodriguez mayor

By Beverly T. Mendrial

ANOTHER SUSPENSION ORder was served on Rodriguez mayor Pedro Cuerpo of Rizal province, on the heels of a previous 60-day preventive suspension order scheduled to lapse today.

Provincial Director of Interior and Local Government (DILG) provincial director Jaerpe Bella Rivera ordered the suspension yesterday morning over an old administrative case filed last year against Cuerpo for the construction of the Hope Rehabilitation and Central Transport Terminal Project in Barangay San Rafael.

Complainants Rosario Rabadilla, Rhodina Reyes and John Earl Dela had accused Cuerpo with "gross neglect of duty, misconduct in office, unlawful behavior, and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service" for profiting through mills the project reportedly without the environmental permits.

The mayor's actions allegedly resulted in the death of a bulldozer operator as well as damages acquired by several children in the area because of dust and smoke from the site.

In a resolution, the provincial board of Rizal said it decided to penalize Cuerpo with a two-month suspension, based on the Local Government Code provision concerning elective officials charged with administrative cases.

Cuerpo said the new suspension order was a case of harassment from the camp of Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III, adding that he had declared in 2008 that he would run against Ynares for the gubernatorial seat next year.

For his part, Ynares told reporters that the accusation was "unfair to the justice of the Sandiganbayan, Supreme Court, and members of the provincial board," all of whom have either issued or affirmed suspension orders against Cuerpo.

"In total, the mayor would always point to me when he gets in trouble. Just like when he was suspended by the ombudsman and Sandiganbayan and affirmed by no less than the Supreme Court, he implied that the justices can be influenced. I think the mayor owes them an apology," Ynares said.

Dino Exequiel, Rizal provincial board member who filed the motion

N. Korea's Kim, successor-son fall out after row, says researcher

SEOUL—SEOKYU KOHSUN leader Kim Jong-il halted a propaganda campaign to promote his youngest son as successor after the son began limiting his media promotions, a leading South Korean researcher says.

Kim and his son Jong-un fell out over military personnel reassignments soon, according to Yoon Sung-yeol, chief of the Institute for National Security Strategy, which is affiliated with the National Intelligence Service.

Yoon made his comments on Wednesday at a forum, which released a tape of his remarks on Thursday.

The ill Kim Jong-un's uncle Jang Sung-thaek, previously seen as the leader's right-hand man, has also been sidelined for the time being.

Succession speculation began in earnest after Kim, now 67, suffered a stroke around August 2008. Widespread reports since then said he had chosen his third and youngest son Jong-un to inherit power.

KIM Jong-un in a photo taken from South Korean newspaper Munhwa Ilbo. —

Beginning late last year, state media stepped up propaganda to justify the expected succession but the publicity campaign came to a halt in mid-July. Senior officials and other sources have said.

Instead, the communist state is calling for solidarity around the current leader, Vice Unification Minister Hong Yung-ho told the meeting.

"Kim Jong-il knows as well that two suns should not exist in the sky," Yoon told the forum.

Jong-un had "confirmed" his debut in June and July over military personnel reassignments, Yoon said. As a result, Kim senior had begun suppressing the influence of his son and of Jang Song-thaek, who is married to Kim Jong-il's sister.

"Talk about power succession has submerged since August," Yoon said. He did not suggest that the eventual succession plans has changed.

Jang, who was seen as preventing Jong-un's overzealous, has not been seen in public as often as before, Yoon said.

A Japanese media report in September also said Kim Jong-il developed bonds with Kim Jong-il and his youngest son.

An angry Kim had ordered state news agencies to temper praise of Jong-un and cease talk of any succession, Japan Broadcasting Corp. said.

Around July, Jong-un "made moves over personnel matters of the military without consulting his father and angered" leader Kim, it said.

A South Korean legislator, citing a confidential report, has said Jong-un is expected to be officially named as successor some time between 2010 and 2012.

Official media has reported a heavy schedule of "field guidance" trips by Kim senior in recent months, and released photos of some of them. As of Sunday he had made a reported 122 trips this year.

But Yoon said the leader sometimes uses other people to impersonate him.

"It seems that there are three Kim lookalikes," he told the forum, adding that the number of impersonator trips had been exaggerated.

The researcher could not be reached for comment on Thursday.

Yoon also told the forum that South Korea's government is considering scrolling up to 30,000 tons of rice to flood aid to the North—a much smaller amount than under previous administrations. AFP

DNA lead revives 25-year-old French murder mystery

UNDATED photo of murdered French boy Gregory Villemin, 4. —AFP

DIJON, FRANCE—INVESTIGators said on Thursday they may have a new lead in one of France's darkest criminal mysteries, the murder of a little boy acquisitive resource ago, after finding DNA on a poison-pen letter.

The body of 4-year-old Gregory Villemin was found tied up and drowned in the Vologne river, in the Vosges mountains in eastern France, in October 1984.

The following day, a letter arrived at the home of his parents—who had been receiving anonymous hate mail—claiming responsibility for the murder, and calling it "revenge."

Gregory's killing sparked a 17-year legal saga that transfixed France, but the case was scrapped up in 2004 without anyone ever either in the murder or the sender of the mysterious letters.

Prosecutors relaunched the probe last December in the light of new DNA testing techniques and the results of a five-month expert analysis were filed with the state prosecutor in eastern Dijon on Thursday.

Using state-of-the-art technology, experts found two sets of DNA on a threatening letter sent to Gregory's family nine months after his murder, prosecutor Jean-Marie Beney said.

"We have identifiable mix of DNA on the sealed evidence. A woman's DNA on or under the stamp of one of a letter from the poison-pen writer, and a man's DNA on the same letter," he said.

Sent to the boy's grandparents, Albert and Monique Villemin, the letter threatened: "I will do you in, the Villemin family. Monique is next on the list."

Experts also managed to identify Gregory's DNA on the sleeve of the anorak he was wearing the day he died—analyzed along with his hat, tracksuit, the rope used to bind his hands and feet and a syringe found at the crime scene.

According to an expert quoted in Le Parisien newspaper, the most step would be to compare the DNA prints with those of each protagonist in the case, as well as all investigators who handled the pieces of evidence.

The DNA tests were carried out at the request of the boy's parents, Christine and Jean-Marie Villemin, who both served time in prison in connection with their son's killing.

They lawyer Marie-Christine Chastant-Morand said on Thursday her clients "will hope to discover the truth."

The death of "Little Gregory," as he became known, sparked one of France's most notorious cases, with murder suspicions, an police sought to untangle a web of family hatreds and lurid jealousies.

A cousin of the child's father, Bernard Laroche, was charged a month after the murder, based on evidence given by a terrorized niece in time.

He was released after the witnesses her claims, only to be shot dead in March 1985 by Jean-Marie Villemin, who spent two and a half years in prison for the crime. The prosecution bosses did not stop with Laroche's death.

Later that year, Christine Villemin was charged with the murder. She was finally cleared eight years later and all charges against her dropped. AFP

Pope's invitation to Anglicans raises prospect of married Catholic priests

ROME—IN SEEKING IT EASIER for traditionalist Anglicans to become Catholic, Pope Benedict XVI once again revealed the character of his papacy. To stretch—to the utmost extent—of like-minded believers, even if they are not Catholic. Yet some observers wonder whether his move could paradoxically liberalize the Church—or at least nudge it open—on a crucial issue: celibacy.

It is tremendous news on Tuesday, the Vatican said it would help Anglicans uncomfortable with female priests and openly gay bishops join a new Anglican structure in the Catholic Church.

The invitation also extends to married Anglican clergy. And so some have begun to wonder, even if the 82-year-old Benedict himself would never allow it, would more people in the Catholic Church begin to entertain the possibility of married Catholic priests?

"If you get used to the idea of your priests being married, then that changes the perception of the Catholic priesthood necessarily," said Austen Ivereigh, a Catholic commentator in London and a former adviser to Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster.

"We face the prospect in the future of going to a Catholic church in London and it being normal to find a married Catholic priest celebrating at the altar, with his wife sitting in the front pew and his children running up and down the aisle," he said.

Married priests are permitted in the eastern Catholic rites, and one of Benedict's central goals is full communion with the Orthodox—and they, too, allow priests to marry. Anglican priests, married or not, are already permitted to become Catholic priests, but on a case-by-case basis. The new dispensation would be the first time allow in groups of married priests.

"Now we're opening up a whole movement outside the Latin rite, within the Western rite, which will allow married priests to function," said Thomas Reese, a senior fellow at the Woodstock Theological Seminary at Georgetown University and a liberal Catholic commentator.

Reese cashed a series of intriguing hypothetical questions: Would unmarried Anglican priests who want to become Catholic priests have to take a vow of chastity? (The answer is presumably yes.) Could a Catholic man convert to Anglicanism, be ordained in an Anglican priest, then rejoin the Catholic Church under the new Anglican rite? (The Vatican spokesperson, the Rev Federico Lombardi, dismissed that idea as "a trick.") AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

UN begins distributing ballots across Afghanistan

KABUL—The United Nations began delivering ballots and voting kits across Afghanistan on Thursday, as hall-blown preparations for the Nov. 7 runoff in the insurgency-plagued nation's presidential election got underway. International election monitors called on authorities to avert the widespread fraud that marred the first round of voting in August. Scores of election staff accused of misconduct have been barred and new personnel sworn in to their posts. President Hamid Karzai will face his rival foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah in the runoff. Abdullah announced on Wednesday he was ready to take part, one day after the UN vowed to enforce UE pressure and acknowledged he fell short of the 50 percent threshold needed for victory in the Aug. 20 election. AP

Bahamas declares mistrial in Travolta extortion case

NASSAU—A Bahamian Supreme Court judge declared a mistrial late on Wednesday in the case of two people accused of trying to extort $25 million from Hollywood actor John Travolta, after a political convention was told they had been cleared before the jury returned a verdict. Supreme Court Justice Anita Allen ordered that a retrial be held after a Bahamian politician prematurely announced of his party's personal connection, which was being covered on live television and radio, that the two accused had been cleared. Pleasant Bridgewater, a former member of the Bahamas Senate, and ambulance driver Tanino Lightbourne had been accused of attempting to extort $25 million from Travolta following the death of his son, Jett, in January.

Reuters

Woman recants story of W. Virginia trailer attack

COLUMBUS, Ohio—The young woman who was found in 2007 in a backwoods trailer in West Virginia, where she said she had been held captive and raped, recanted her story on Wednesday. "Megan Williams was 20 years old in September 2007 when she reported that she had been kidnapped, raped and tortured in an allegedly racist attack," Byron L. Pollitt, Williams' lawyer, said on Wednesday in a brief statement. "Megan Williams is now recanting her story." The turn of events represents a shocking reversal in a racially charged case that led to the conviction of seven people, all but one of whom are serving lengthy prison sentences. AFP

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Edna Lorena B. Cueva

The WORLD

US man accused of plot to kill shoppers, troops

BOSTON—TARIEK MEhanna grew up in Boston's upscale suburbs, earned a doctorate in pharmacology, taught religion and math at a Muslim middle school and was considered a typical American kid by those who knew him.

MEHANNA

Yet Mehanna, who had Egyptian and US citizenship, told a friend he felt out of place in America, according to documents filed in court. And in exercises any he used his hostility toward the United States as a plot to kill US troops in Iraq, assassinate top politicians and shoot down shoppers in US malls.

Mehanna, 27, was arrested early Wednesday at his parents' home in Sudbury, an affluent town around 32 kilometers west of Boston. He was charged with conspiring with two others—Ahmad Abousamra, an American now in Syria, and an unidentified man who is cooperating with authorities—to support terrorism.

Ultimately the trio never came close to pulling off an attack. Authorities say they never got the materials training they sought. The men told friends they were turned down because of their nationality, ethnicity or inexperience, or that the people they'd hoped would get them into such camps were either in jail or on a religious pilgrimage.

They abandoned the mall attack plans after their weapons source said he could find only handguns, not automatic weapons, authorities said.

According to authorities, a friend of Mehanna's who is cooperating with the investigation has in recent of participating in the alleged plot told Mehanna told him it was "unfathomable" that the United States has military bases in the "heart of the Muslim world" and that the "land of Mohammad ... is being used as a military base to attack Muslims."

Mehanna also told the friend that in the United States he feels "like a fish out of water," according to an affidavit filed in court.

Prosecutors say Mehanna and his friends used code words such as "peanut butter and jelly" for fighting in Somalia and "culinary school" for terrorist camps, and talked extensively of their desire to "die on the battlefield."

He was allegedly part of a conspiracy between 2004 and 2008 that intended to "kill, kidnap, maim or injure" soldiers and then politicians who were members of the executive branch but are no longer in office. Authorities refused to identify the politicians, who they said were never in danger.

Acting US Attorney Michael Loucks said the men justified the planned attacks on mall because US civilians pay taxes to support the government and are "noncombatants," a concept the US refused to identify the targeted mafia.

Mehanna first was arrested in November and charged with lying to the FBI in December 2006 when asked the whereabouts of Daniel Maldonado, who is now serving a 10-year prison sentence for training with al-Qaida in southwestern the Somali government. AP

Wanted: Critic of marijuana dispensaries

DENVER—THE STORE HAS A TELEVision lounge and a pool table, and snacks and nonalcoholic are free for customers who drop up to $120 or more on 30 varieties of marijuana. But a reviewer of the business wants the decor looks a little cliche, what with the Grateful Dead posters on the wall and the Mexican-themed tablecloths.

The medical marijuana review business is booming in states like Colorado and California have seen an explosion in the number of pot shops.

The United States considers marijuana an illegal drug, but some states have legalized it for medicinal purposes.

The growth of the medical marijuana business has created clashes with local, state and federal authorities, prompting the US attorney general to issue guidelines this week telling federal prosecutors that targeting people who are or provide medical marijuana in strict compliance with state laws was not a good use of their time.

A Denver alternative newspaper recently posted an ad for what some consider the newest job in pot industry—a reviewer of the state's marijuana dispensaries and their products.

Medical marijuana users can also look at dozens of review websites, even mainstream rating sites such as Yelp or Citysearch, to find their high. At least five Denver applicants have vowed here to find the cleanest place to legally buy bud in the 14 US states that allow some sort of medical marijuana.

The Denver paper, Westword, has already gotten more than 120 applicants, many of them offering to do the reviews for free. When the newspaper settles on a prominent critic for its new "Mile-High and Lovin'" column, industry watchers say it will be the first professional newspaper critic of medical marijuana in the United States.

There's one condition. The critic has to have a medical ailment that allows them to legally score a dispensary, and buy and use marijuana.

"Most of the time people are having the opportunity to use marijuana for whatever illness they have. So we want to be a place they can come to find out which place is the best, the cleanest, the cheese, that kind of stuff," said Joe Tone, Web editor at Westword.

Most current reviews focus on dispensaries in California, the first state in the nation to approve medical marijuana in 1996. Los Angeles now has an estimated 800 medical pot shops, up from only four in 2005. Colorado has more than 160, including one across the street from the state capitol. AP

WHAT'S INSIDE

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■ **Phillies** clinch World Series berth /A32

Stags draw first blood

Edge Lions after 2 OTs

SUDAN Dominic of San Beda is double-teamed by SSC's Ronald Pascual and Ian Sangalang in yesterday's series opener.

By Cedelf P. Tajon

PERSEVERANCE AND CONFIDENCE WHEN IT mattered, San Sebastian nipped three-time defending champion San Beda, 72-68, after a thrilling double overtime duel last night to secure sole lead in the race to reaching a semifinal berth in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Stags, the lone challenger to the Red Lions' throne, stayed in touch at crunch time with Jimboy Aquino and Calvin Abueva delivering the late scoring punch.

Rookie Abueva hauled the final blow to the highly physical showdown, pulling down his 23rd rebound on San Beda's last possession and Oses sinking two free throws with barely six seconds left to play.

"It's a great experience to win an overtime game for the first time," said coach Aric Iglesia. "I owe the composure of the team. They never gave up."

The Stags can clinch the title with a victory in Game 2 tomorrow.

The Lions, who found themselves in an unfamiliar 0-1 situation in a title series for the

STORY CONTINUES ON A30

Cotto unfazed by heavy underdog tag vs Manny

COTTO: "He brings a lot of things that Pacquiao doesn't have."

LOS ANGELES—KENNY UNDERDOG Miguel Cotto will carry the hopes of his entire Puerto Rico on his shoulders in next month's mega fight against Filipino Manny Pacquiao.

Unbeaten in the odds against him, the 27-year-old Cotto will be fighting for his place in boxing history in the 145-pound bout on Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

A win over an unbeaten world champion Pacquiao would silence his critics, said trainer Joe Santiago.

"When that night comes and the votes, everyone will know that Puerto Rico does have the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world," Santiago said from Cotto's training camp in Tampa, Florida.

Cotto doesn't need any more motivation than for people to say he doesn't have what it takes to beat Pacquiao.

"A lot of people are picking Pacquiao to beat him and he is motivated by that," Santiago said. "Miguel has little extra because the people don't think he can win this fight. He will come out with a little more fire."

Santiago says Cotto is younger, bigger, stronger and more determined. The pair are fighting at the catch weights of 145 lb. which is PBO welterweight champion Cotto's natural weight.

"Cotto is the first true welterweight that [Pacquiao] will have fought in his career. He is young and still in his prime so that is what Pacquiao is facing," Santiago said.

A classic boxer in the true sense of the word, Cotto is 34-1 with 27 knockouts. He has defeated a host of top fighters including Shane Mosley, Zab Judah and Joshua Clottey. Cotto's only loss came last year to Mexico's Antonio Margarito.

Cotto's trainer believes Pacquiao's speed won't be a problem and that the Filipino is a perfect fit for those who avoid elite Cotto.

"Miguel brings a lot of things that Pacquiao doesn't have," said strength trainer Phil Landman.

Said Santiago: "I think that Miguel has shown that he can deal with speed. I think with the type of rhythm that Manny brings to the fight the people don't think Miguel can stay with that speed. I think he will enjoy fighting that kind of fight." AFP

Ginebra, sans 2 aces, takes on Smart Gilas

TALK 'N 'fast forward Al Pinto (left) fires a shot off Smart Gilas' Jason Ballesteros (12) and Mikeeh Ramos in Wednesday's game. KIMA ATIENZA

By Mayang R. Castillo

TWO GAMES AFTER SWEEPING BARANGAY Ginebra is a flaw short, Mark Caguioa will have to do it out again.

The returning 6-foot guardinger suffers from an inflamed left knee due to patellar tendonitis and has been advised to rest for at least one week starting with the Gin Kings' duals with guard-ripped Smart Gilas today in the BIC-PBA Philippine Cup elimination.

Game time at the Cuneta Astrodome with the Kings heavily favored to win their third straight game.

Ranidia tries to keep in step with Caguioa when it collides with Coca-Cola in the nightcap at 7:30 while Purefoods lock horns with defending champion Talk 'N Text on Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. contest.

Caguioa missed all of last season due to injuries on both knees. Although the same injury is not a recurrence of the old one, the coaching staff opted to rest Caguioa earlier than risk him being forced out of action for a longer period.

Eric Menk, the former MVP will also be out for at least two weeks because of a broken right small toe, leaving Ginebra without the two veterans who have given our surprising offensive performances in its first two games.

Playing without skipper Chris Tiu, the National team appearance were besides black-and-blue by Talk N Text on Wednesday, 103-76.

Reinforcer CJ Giles, being groomed as Smart Gilas' unrealized player, was cited for only five minutes against the "Texters" after he was ejected by a collision his mother before spotlighting him that his four-year-old son was hospitalized because of a mri blood disease.

NCAA Finals: Stags draw first blood

Perez page A27

first time under coach Franklin Gito, need win to forge a rubber match Thursday.

Aquino finished with a game-high 24 points, including nine in the first period, and 11 rebounds, while Arboleda, aside from a season-high output in rebounds, came through with 13 points and five blocks.

The Stags chilled on with it in regulation after blowing several attempts with the score tied at 55. Then Jason Ballesteros pierced the lane and made a difficult layup with six seconds remaining to send the game into a second overtime, 62-60.

"I think stopping their first-break game was it for us," said Aguinaldo, whose team finished the Lions in just 12 points on transition.

San Beda held San Sebastian scoreless in the final 5:20 of the fourth quarter, while drawing six points from Jonas Dela Rosa, who formed sometime with a long jumper with 1:1 seconds remaining. Dela Rosa had gone 1-of-10 from the field before making the go-ahead.

Arellano, the San Beda Red Cubs took a 1-0 lead in the juniors series as they hammered one 4:05-75 victory over the Lyceum Squires.

Mares Alcoy sizzled with 19 points and dished out 10 assists as the Red Cubs rushed closer to regaining the title they last won four years ago. The Red Cubs are gunning for a 17th title overall.

The scores:

Final Game One:
SAN BEDA 62—Aquino 24, Arboleda 13, Dela Rosa 9, Ilas 6, Ballesteros 7, Lambatan 2, Duque 0, Cruz-Dantis 0, Arao 0, Javier 0, Alcantara 2, Hernandez 1, Lucas 2, Reyes II, Buenaventura 0.

LYCEUM 60—Barroca 14, Alcantara 13, Cruz 12, Calma 9, Cagbabo 8, Tan 0, Magat 0, Labagala 0, Reyes 0, Galanza 0, Rivas 0.

Quarters: 17-15, 34-25, 55-52, 60-55.

Second Game One:
SAN SEBASTIAN—Aquino 19, Sangalang 10, Alcaraz 10, Buenaventura 7, Santos 6, Salazar 5, Alcantara 3, Pascual 2, Ramos 0, Cabahug 0.

ARELLANO 68—Casio 17, Quiel 17, Mendoza 17, Gonzales 11, Dela Rosa 5, Mariano 0, Manuel 0, Javier 0, Lucas 0, Tamayo 0.

Quarters: 21-16, 40-32, 51-48, 62-60, 56, 62-60 (first OT), 73-68

3 UAAP stars boost Patriots vs Thailand Tigers

By Jasmine W. Payo

THREE COLLEGE STANDOUTS WHO RECENTLY set in the current UAAP Finals will join forces to boost the Philippine Patriots' campaign in the Southeast Asia Basketball League.

Jeremy Batchelor of back-to-back UAAP champion Ateneo and incoming University of the East's Rissee Espinosa and Mel Acuña will provide extra zest for the Patriots when they host the Thailand Tigers this Sunday.

"They are winners and they will be great additions," said coach Leroy Abis, who will finally call the shots at the helm of the Patriots' home campaign in the region's fledgling home-and-away tournament.

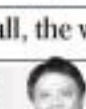
After splitting two road games, the Patriots hope to capitalize on their home edge against the Tigers on Sunday, the Thursday and Saturday Oct. 25 and the Singapore Slingers on Nov. 7.

All games will be played at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City.

"They will give us more versatility on defense," said Abis of the 6-foot-5 Batchelor.

"Elmer is a rebounding demon," said Abis of Espinosa, the UAAP Defensive Player of the Year. "Mel and Elmer are used to defense."

Assistant coach Bogs Adornado and collaborator remains the team's top concern after the Patriots bounced to the Slingers, 74-69, in Singapore last Oct. 16, a week after conquering Indonesia Satria Muda Britama with a 75-69 opening-day triumph in Jakarta.



SPORTSWATCH

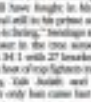
Old rivals rekindle feud in Shakey's V-League

Fernando slips past Asistio for lead

Reach, Ariza Scoop session guests today

By Top Choice, At San Lazaro LP

Call it soccer or football, the world will watch



ONE GAME AT A TIME

Sev Sarmenta

WHILE JOGGING LAST WEEKEND, I chanced upon a spirited soccer festival with schoolgirls and dads families enjoying the sun that finally lit up the city.

After close of side, the host was delighted and the players, dads seem to child, that practices of the girls will had pockets of mud. There large fields were cut up into smaller segments to accommodate mini games. They really didn't need the whole field and just to kick the ball on the goal area a blast.

I missed on why the game is called "soccer" in some parts of the world. It's easy to conclude that it's the Americans who called the game to differentiate it from their football.

That's not exactly correct, as Michael Rose Moore captains at Spiegel Online. The British, who invented football, gave the "soccer" nickname for "association football" to differentiate it from rugby.

Although many agree that soccer is the appropriate term, many still hold on to "football" because of tradition and the point of the game, which is to kick the ball.

Yes, that's why in underground rally "the beautiful game," as it is tagged by the supporters and fans, is called football by popular acclaim. It is in the rest of the world. It seems so easy to blame basketball sports and the American influence as the men of the country that em-

phasized basketball and boxing.

* * *

Despite the problems of the sport, the game is very much alive here as it is played and followed passionately in schools, shared groups and clubs throughout the country.

There is undue pressure for us to be passionate about the game deeply because the rest of the world is deeply into it. The popular sentiment is that our physique is suited for soccer rather than basketball, a sport where height and reach edge superiority.

Similarly, our accomplishments in the past are frequently used as a reminder that we should return to the game more zealously.

A sport cannot be forced upon a citizen or people and it should be considered a privilege earned on its own merits. Sooner soon the rule, the reality that other sports are more popular in this country and should just continue to reach and build on its strengths.

* * *

That's why when the Fifa World Cup is fourth and less ending awarded in 2010, the Philippines will watch, I think and be offering viewing homes in condominiums, clubs and other entertainment gathering together and football enthusiasts and lovers will have public viewing parts.

Many will follow the games in the edition because membership there days to accommodate savvy and passionate society.

We will have a special interest in the team qualifiers as we try to understand why the other countries can make it to the World Cup and we can't. There will also be keen attention on the matches because Ateneo they will have their fans in full force, and their desire to play well against the very best on home turf will be there.

We will surely follow the appearances of the sport and the players who give meaning to the phrase "the beautiful game." It is a shared to much of the game's growth, and even we will all still have no hands are used, the field is enormous and the scoring extremely difficult.

We do get a little out of the game because it gets the young ones to play outdoors and children to exercise and stay fit. Sadly, and even we will all watch when the world's best players come to play next year, even if the debate over calling it soccer or football never really ends.

SBP-PASSERELLE VISAYAS CAGE FINALS

Social businessmen from Ateneo and La Salle Green Hills dispute the championship of the recent Nike-sponsored 2009 NIKE Centre NCR regional finals which the Blue Eagles emerged over the Greenhills team in the semi-finals. It will be the turn of the top junior cagers from the Visayas in a showcase their talents in the Small Businessmen of the Philippines (SBP)-Passerelle regional finals which gets going today and ends on Sunday at Che Cagle Sports in Bacolod City. Action teams seeking action are: Bureau de Asilo, Xiamen Christian School of Roxas City, St. John Institute of Bacolod and USC-Basic of Cebu.

Champs League: Sharks, Dukes dispute top spot

LYCEUM OF SUBIC BAY AND Lyceum Northwestern U just enjoy today in the semi-finals of the Bicol-Isle Northern and Central Luzon regional championship in Subic of the Philippine Collegiate Champions League.

Both teams handled their opening assignments with the Subic Bay Sharks edging University of Baguio, 80-78, and the Lyceum NU Dukes trouncing University of Northern Philippines, 70-76.

The Sharks are the reigning United Central Luzon Athletic Association Orchid champions and the Dukes are the rallies in the Intercollegiate and Collegiate Association of Pangasinan (Colap).

On Saturday, the UB Cardinals take on the UNP Sharks in Baguio City.

The winner of the four-team event will advance to the zonal qualifying games against four other winners from Nov. 9 to 12 in Manila.

The top two zonal finalist outfits in the "Season 167 Finals of the tournament sponsored by PLDT/Smart, Gold Pepsi

ACE HARDWARE OPENS IN SM HYPERMARKET MAKATI

ACE Hardware, the Helpful Place, opens its 40th branch in the Philippines recently along President Diosdado Highway in Makati.

The 400 square meter store is located on the Lower Ground Floor of the building where SM Hypermarket recently opened. And as homemakers can shop for fresh food straight from the source, groceries, clothes, accessories, and home items at the hypermarket, home improvement enthusiasts can shop for their helpful solutions at ACE Hardware.

Like all ACE Hardware stores worldwide, the new Makati store has a wide assortment of items for the smart handyman - power tools, electrical and lighting fixtures, building materials, indoor equipment, and items for the car and home. It also has a lawn and garden section, as well as exclusive products like lead free and odorless ACE Paints with 2,000 colors to choose from. With its automated color matching program, you simply have to bring your swatches, which the computer will scan and give you the colors you want.

Shopping fun awaits customers at the new store. These include discounts and savings on items that celebrate Outdoor Fun for Everyone - tents, grills, rechargeable batteries, until October 31. Likewise, every P500 single or accumulated purchase until November 15 entitles one to a raffle coupon and a chance to win one of two Honda Wave motorcycles in the OMNI promotion. You can earn rewards points and double your chances of winning when you use your Prestige Card, SM Advantage Card, and BDO Rewards Card.

Check out the newly opened ACE Hardware branch at 3rd Hypermarket Makati. Other stores are located at SM Makati, SM Cubao, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM City Marikina, SM City Bicutan, SM City San Lazaro, SM City Manila, as well as SM Supermalls in Pasig, Valenzuela, and Las Pinas. In the provincial areas, ACE Hardware stores are located at the SM Supermalls in Bacoor, Dasmarinas, Molino, Batangas, Naga, Lucena, Clark, Marilao, Iligan, Rosales, Baliwag, and Sta Rosa in Luzon; as well as Cebu, Iloilo, Davao, and Cagayan de Oro in the Visayas area. These items are also available at ACE Business Centers at SM City North EDSA, SM City Fairview, and SM City Pampanga.

PAINTING job makes enjoyable with durable paint rollers from ACE Hardware.

KEEP your valuables safe with these ACE padlocks.

ACE Industrial Compressor Hose

DOBO Cricket has a push button lock for hardware and bathroom doors primarily in stainless embedded from the outside in case of emergency.

ACE Essence Acrylic Latex Enamel Paints (clockwise, from top left: semi-gloss, flat, satin)

ACE Wood Stain Oil Based Paint

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at SM center LAS PIÑAS LOWER GROUND FLOOR

get a chance to win one of 2 HONDA WAVE 100 MOTORCYCLES

Every P500 single or accumulated purchase entitles you to raffle coupon.

Now Thru October 31

www.acehardware.ph

ACE Paint Brush

This grill is for outdoor barbecues

ACE Prima Lawn Garden Poly Sprayer with rubber hose and adjustable nylon spray

Pucay fires 69 in rain-hit Iskandar Johor Open

JOHOR BAHRU, MALAYSIA—MARVIE PUCAY SHOT 2-UNDER-PAR 69 in lead a pro-testing Filipino campaign in the rain-interrupted Iskandar Johor Open Thursday. The 30-year-old Pucay was in a big group that included defending champion Rafael Gozzoli and trailed three leaders by one shot. Jhon Pagunsan, Irene Bimoto and top qualifier Michael Rebol had 70s. Rey Magsaysay carded par 72 and Angelo Que carded a 73.

SPORTS

Shanghai Int'l Darts: Perez settles for 2nd place

FILIPINO BAS PEREZ HEIGHED A STRONG SECOND TZ bow to two-time champion John Part of Canada in the recent $1(2) 000 Shanghai International Darts Open. Perez, from Koronadal City, came from nowhere to lead the big Filipino showing as Asians richest darts event held at the Sports Hotel. Jane Portter, Lourdes Bigas and Arlo Briones earlier reached 1-2 in the race to the Top 16, 60 three finishers failed to make it to the semifinals.

Phillies clinch World Series berth

PHILADELPHIA—THE DEFENDING champion Philadelphia Phillies rewarded the Los Angeles Dodgers, 10-4, on Wednesday to win the National League Championship Series and advance to the World Series.

The Phillies claimed the best-of-seven series, 4-1, and move on to the winner of the American League Championship Series between the Los Angeles Angels and New York Yankees, who hold a 3-2 lead.

Slugging first baseman Ryan Howard, who hit two homers and drove in eight runs in the NLCS, was named MVP of the series.

"What we did last year, that was something special," Howard told reporters. "But to get back to this point, to have the opportunity to try to do it two years in a row, that's even more special."

Dodgers manager Joe Torre was disappointed with the defeat.

"We entered the best team this week, I don't think there's any secret," Torre said. "This losing season is real pit in your stomach."

Jimmy Rollins led the way for Philadelphia by batting a pair of homers among four wounded by the Phillies—a three-run shot to right field in the first inning and a solo blast to center in the seventh.

Willie Pelá, shared the Series in the second inning and Shane Victorino chased a two-run homer in the ninth.

The Dodgers garnered three homers themselves, but the home runs by Andre Ethier, James Loney and pinch-hitter Orlando Hudson all came with the bases empty.

The Phillies scored a run in the second, two in both the fourth and sixth before adding single runs in the seventh and eighth innings.

Reliever Chad Durbin, the third of six Phillies pitchers, was credited with the win.

Los Angeles starter Hiroki Kuroda, a former Phillies pitcher, took the loss.

The Phillies, who rise from the Dodgers 4-1 in last year's NLCS, will try to become the first NL team to repeat as World Series champions since the 1970 Cincinnati Reds.

Philadelphia defeated the Tampa Bay Rays last year and Phillies manager Charlie Manuel exuded confidence. "I know we can win the World Series again," Manuel said. AKervin

BACK IN WORLD SERIES: Closer Brad Lidge and catcher Carlos Ruiz celebrate the Phillies' series-clincher over the Dodgers—AP photo

Osaka tennis: Patrombon advances; Alcantara falls

JESON PATROMBON PULLED THROUGH but Francis Casey Alcantara stumbled Thursday in the preliminaries Osaka Mayor's Cup Global Super Junior Tennis Championships in Japan.

Patrombon, 16, checked the fourth-seed Japanese Shuichi Sekiguchi, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4, to reach the round of 16 in the Grade A event.

But Alcantara, the first and only Filipino junior to win a Grand Slam event, dropped a 6-2, 6-3 decision to Korean Lee Jin-Hyun.

Patrombon will next take on tallest Yuichi Maseiwa, who downed another Japanese, Hikaki Futaba, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

"It was a hard-fought match and sudden-ly Jesson started hitting wide, more outdoor-ly," said Dimyadoro's coach, former RP Davis Cupper Moises Tesoro.

The junior standout from Bijan City could rank the first set but fatigued, the world's No. 10 junior got his game going in the second set to forge a deciding wherein he raced to a 4-1 lead.

"Mr. Sekiguchi was just too solid and consistent in the second set," said Tesoro. "But I still believed Jesson had a chance to win the match because every rally was just a fight and there where so many games in the second and third sets that could have easily swung to favor."

Patrombon raised the level of his play, however, and notched the straight points to oust the Japanese. Mare Anthony Reyes

IN THIS ISSUE

■ HSBC upbeat on RP commercial banking /B7
■ MPIC increases stake in Makati Med /B9

John Red O. Mercado • Assistant Editor Carmi S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Ayala utility gets to extend water concession

FORMER Presidents Fidel V. Ramos and SGV founder Washington SyCip present the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year award to Philippine Airlines boss Jaime P. Bautista (left). Bautista was recognized for his efforts in promoting the interests of small businesses, earning for him the title "retrepreneur for entrepreneurs."

Extra 15 years will allow MWCI to ease up on rate hikes

By Gerry S. Ramos

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS APPROVED THE 15-year extension of the Ayala-led Manila Water Co. Inc.'s concession agreement with Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

Manila Water told the Philippine Stock Exchange that the DOF approval "confirms the government's guarantee of its contractual obligations relative to the extension."

"[Manila Water] has effectively secured the signed copy and corresponding documents to this effect, and shall now proceed to complete its own contractual obligations," the company said in a disclosure.

"In turn thereof, upon all the conditions precedent have been fulfilled and all legal requirements completed, the concession agreement is now in full force and effect," it added.

The 15-year extension means that the concession agreement of Manila Water would end on 2037, from the original expiration of 2022, as stated under the previous agreement.

During public consultations in March, the publicly listed unit of the Ayala group said the extension would allow the company to iron scheduled water rate increases between 2010 and 2012 to P1 a cubic meter a year. There will be no rate increase this year.

Manila Water said it was supposed to raise water rates by more than P1 a year from 2009 to 2012 under the existing contract that ends in 2022.

According to the water utility, a longer recovery period is supposed to enable Manila Water to increase its investment by 1.48 percent to P486

Article B7

WB: RP needs to grow by 7% to reduce poverty

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE WORLD BANK SAID THE Philippines would need to grow between 6 and 7 percent on a sustained basis to help arrest its rising poverty incidence.

According to World Bank country director Ian Porter, the Philippines must attract more foreign direct investments, which are seen to rise now that the global economy is recovering from the financial turmoil.

At the height of the financial crisis, the Philippines fared better than its neighbors, even managing to avoid a recession. But now that the global economy is on the mend, other fast-paced Asian countries are expected to grow faster than the Philippines.

Robless said the Philippines could lag behind its neighbors in the area of investments.

"There is a lack of opportunities for investments.... The government should make sure more for the entry of private sector investments," Robless told members of the business community in a recent conference.

He said the Philippines would need more investments to enable it to attain growth levels that, in turn, would lead to

WB, RP B7

Gov't borrowed more, paid less in September

By Reuwel W. Daroy

THE GOVERNMENT IN SEPTember borrowed more money than it eased to pay back, resulting in P122.55 billion in net borrowing, according to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr).

This month, the government borrowed P211.96 billion—almost five times the P23.9 billion in net borrowings made the same month last year—and paid out P20.45 billion.

Payments made that month included P6.42 billion in foreign loans and P20.03 billion in domestic debt.

Driving up borrowings was the issuance of retail Treasury bonds (RTBs) that totaled P114.4 billion, and five-year bonds (P24.13 billion) creating a yield curve facility which the government owes from the Asian Development Bank.

Also, the government's financing position in the nine months to September settled at a net borrowing of P137.18 billion—23 percent higher than the P98.72 billion posted last year.

Last week, Finance officials talked about the need to borrow more. They said the budget deficit cap of P250 billion for the year would be breached due to necessary fiscal efforts in the aftermath of two consecutive storms that recently hit the country.

The latest data from the BTr does not include the $1 billion in additional borrowings raised through the issuance of dollar-denominated bonds—after government's third outing in the global bond market this year.

GOV'T B7

Finding the take off or reversal point

LIKE I SAID LAST TIME, THE market has yet to consolidate more. This is corroborated in this week's trading results.

The price upticks early in the week could not proceed further to sustain a gravity-spurned bounce not enough profit taking has occurred.

On a qualitative unbiased viewpoint, this is what is described as a situation where stocks could not yet resume their advance because they are establishing a new price base, which can only happen—in other technical analysis explains to sustain uptrend—when the "changing of weak hands to strong hands" has totally occurred.

Once more traditional angle, stock prices or the moment have reached their near-term upside targets as could be seen in the downward crossover in the overall market's stochastics, as well as in the cognitive dissonance to the Relative Strength Index (RSI).

From this area as of writing, a sell-off in many select markets still registered. This may send back the market's major index, the Philippine Stock Exchange Index or PSEi, near or below the 2,900 psychological levels. In the process, the market will be cracking a narrow price volatility band before it finds its takeoff or reversal point.

Of course, the direction of the market will always be ultimately determined by fundamental developments. So, be on the lookout for them. As is said, the country's fundamentals are still intact despite the severe natural adversities.

But if I were you, take the lead of the contrarian who had as for made the only trade within the week in the virtual game.

Week 20

Your Mr. made a trading order to submit on Wednesday, Oct. 21, two of his stockholdings that were apparently at their near-term upside price targets. These were SM Prime Holdings Inc. (SMPH) and Ayala Land (and Holdings Inc. (ALI).

If you will notice in the journal (Table 11, his order for ALI proved good but his order for SMPH become invalid. This was because his asking price for SMPH was too high. Its highest price for the day was only P10.80. It was not a realistic. His asking price was somewhere within the price range of the day. It's trading days where stocks stand ranges. (More on this matter later.)

On the other hand, Cyberbanker continued in advance. Only bet and fellow female virtual market rider QB Trader actually advanced were with the general course of stock prices. Tables 2 & 3 will show other details of their performances and the standings of all of the other market riders in the virtual game as of Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009. (See Tables 2 & 3 on Page B3)

Bottom line spin

While Trust Me appears cognizant of the market situation and is apparently doing the most practical thing in the instance, he is actually MARKET RIDER, B4

MARKET RIDER

Dem Somorsy

Bourse changes PSEi composition

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S MAIN STOCK MARKET barometer has been revamped for the second time this year to include DMCI Holdings Inc., Security Bank Corp. and the depositary receipts of Philippine Stock Exchange.

The three companies will join the 30-stock PSE index and replace Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc., Bloal Commercial Banking Corp. and ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. starting Nov. 3, the PSE said yesterday.

"The recent review follows the same objective criteria for inclusion in the PSEi which we have used in 2006. We used to encompass the members of the index becomes more relevant in light of the financial crisis that has affected the landscape of trading in the market," PSE president Francis Lim said in a statement.

This is the first time the PSE itself will be included in the index. The bourse thus joins the Singapore Exchange, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd. and Australian Securities Exchange in the list of exchanges that are included in the composite indices to their respective markets.

The PSE was demutualized as corporation from an organization owned by member-brokers into a stock corporation in 2001. It was listed by way of introduction, and no new selling new shares, in 2003 in accordance with the tightened securities law. New institutional investors came in to obtain the brokers' holdings via private placement in 2004 and the exchange has since then been actively traded in the market.

The changes will take effect following the PSE's regular review of its composition and constituents for the trading activity on July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. The regular update aims to ensure that their constituents reflect the overall price movements of the market as well as the sectors they represent.

Leading conglomerate San Miguel Holdings and Security Bank, which consistently enjoyed the highest return-to-equity among local banks, will return as PSEi members after being removed from the list during the May 2004 and November 2007 index recompositions, respectively.

The six sectors will have fewer member-companies by a total of 16 firms. Only two (PSEi), B3

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

As of October 22, 2009

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: lto@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF VALIDATION STICKERS AND PLATE YEAR TAGS FOR 1ST SEMESTER OF CY 2010

The Land Transportation Office, through Special Fund 101 intends to apply its sum of Twenty One Million Three Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Eleven Pesos and Twenty Five Centavos (Php21,385,011.25) being the approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under this contract for the procurement of Validation Stickers and Plate Year Tags for 1st Semester of CY 2010. Bids received in excess of this ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites bids for procurement of Validation Stickers and Plate Year Tags for 1st Semester of CY 2010. Delivery of the Goods is per Schedule of Requirements (Section VI of the Bid Documents). Bidders should have completed, within 3 years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II. Instruction to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens, sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to corporations or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Land Transportation Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on October 26, 2009 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Php1,000.00.

It may also be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-bid Conference on October 30, 2009 at 2:00PM at the LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City, which shall be open to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before November 13, 2009. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who chooses to attend at the address mentioned above. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

BAC-Secretariat
Property Section, East Avenue, Quezon City
920-24-11/921-9667

(Sgd.) ATTY. JIMMY O. PEREGRINA
BAC - Chairman

Euromoney's "Best Insurer in the Philippines" continues to redefine excellence

After being cited as Euromoney's 2009 Best Insurer in the Philippines, it was "business as usual" for Pioneer Insurance & Surety Corporation, one of the country's top non-life insurance companies. The "usual" though, for Pioneer Insurance is definitely out of the ordinary, as the standard for the team is to constantly aim for higher levels of excellence. Having also been cited by the magazine as Best Insurer for Innovation and Best for Claims Resolution, the team has been challenged to not only maintain but surpass the expectations of its varied client base.

In the survey, conducted by the leading journal for international financial markets, 400 risk managers, treasurers and chief financial officers were asked to rank the best insurers around the world. Pioneer Insurance topped the survey as Best Insurer for the Philippines, joining 59 other Best Insurer awardees from other countries. "In an increasingly challenging financial environment, the winners of the 2009 Euromoney Insurance Awards are those that exhibited the ability to innovate, respond to the increasingly complex demands of their clients, and make the best use of the inherent strengths of their organization. Through the insurance survey, the market has recognized the achievements of these institutions in the face of difficult market conditions, which is why the awards are so richly deserved", said Neil Osborn, publisher of Euromoney.

"Our clients have always expressed their appreciation for our s tality to resolve claims and for the way we respond to their needs," states Pioneer Insurance President and CEO David Coyukiat. "The Best Insurer citation is an assurance that we are serving our clients well." He likewise sees the recognition as a reminder, "to be constantly aware of how we can serve our clients even better in a challenging environment."

Pioneer Insurance has been serving the Filipino for over half a century. This experience, coupled with the drive to be consistently among the top five non-life insurers in the country, makes Pioneer a respected name in the industry. With Euromoney naming it "Best Insurer in the Philippines 2009", the Pioneer team proudly forges ahead and looks forward to being the industry benchmark for excellence, year after year.

59

Best Insurers Worldwide

1

Best Insurer in the Philippines

Pioneer Insurance

More than 400 risk managers, treasurers and chief financial officers from top companies in 59 countries ranked the world's best insurers and brokers for the 2009 Euromoney Insurance survey in the Philippines. Pioneer Insurance & Surety Corporation was selected as Best Insurer for 2009, and as Best in Innovation and Claims Resolution.

EUROMONEY

Insurance Survey 2009

The leading journal for international financial markets

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Brgy. Sangandaan, Novaliches, Quezon City
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Thaddeus Anthony L. Tan - Branch Head
Tel. Nos.: 920-2130, 920-2040, 920-3491

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corner N. Domingo Sts., San Juan City
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Jocelyn S. Salvador - Branch Head
Tel. Nos.: 470-2810, 470-2816, 470-2817

NOVALICHES - ZABARTE BRANCH

G/F C.I. Bldg 1151 Quirino Highway
corner Zabarte Road, Brgy. Bahgyanan
Novaliches, Quezon City
Monday to Friday, 9am - 4pm
Thaddeus Anthony L. Tan - Branch Head
Tel. Nos.: 461-1991, 461-1993, 461-1998

BancNet

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BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: business@inquirer.net.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business
Business Features Editor: Margie Quimpo-Rupisan

Filipinos tops in getting value for money

Customer complaints, dissatisfaction

MARKETING Rx

Dr. Neal Roberts & Andy Roberts

QUESTION: WE HAVE FOUR three-star hotels. We've tried to differentiate our hotels from the competition by attending to customer satisfaction. That is why we can't afford to get an agency to do the customer satisfaction survey, so we do things by ourselves. In-consider customer satisfaction, we rely on customer feedback that we collect when guests check out or after they eat at our hotel restaurants.

We send your notices of customer satisfaction. But based your idea about focusing on customer dissatisfaction because, as you said, that's where the opportunities for reinforcement advantage lie. So what we did was to modify our customer evaluation form by encouraging expression of complaints.

We now have weekly reviews of the week's tabulated complaints and we asked the operations group to do something about the top complaints. We noticed, however, that over the past five to six weeks, the number of complaints did not go down. There was even a slight increase! Is there something wrong with our system?

Answer: Focusing on customer dissatisfaction is the right thing to do, especially for those businesses where customer satisfaction level has stabilized at high 70-80 percent. We are guessing that this is probably your case.

You are also right in saying that it's from customer dissatisfaction that you can quickly spot opportunities to differentiate your hotels from the others. That's because inevitably, after the easy customer complaints have been addressed, the remaining complaints will be more and more difficult to address.

Now, if you're after cost-effectiveness in managing customer dissatisfaction, your monitoring and scanning of customer dissatisfactions from customer complaints is a good enough approximation, we suppose, at least in your industry.

Your hotel guests and hotel restaurant diners get dissatisfied right where you are. Don't outlier in customer goods subjects the satisfaction and dissatisfaction experiences to in the homes of consumers or places far from you.

Patience

You asked if there's something wrong with your complaint-handling system. The only thing we see is—realize that there are many forces at play, accounting for why your customer complaints did not go down and even went up.

To start with, don't you think that five or six weeks is a rather short period to expect even such heavy results, not to mention dramatic ones which you seem to be looking for?

Be patient and give what you're doing the chance and enough time to work out.

Unforgiving customers

There's a second significant factor to consider. There's your segment of served customers in today's tough economic times.

Your hostel have probably more of what a previous service customer representative of ours referred to as "unforgiveable" or unforgiving customers as against those who are "addicted" or forgiving ones.

Yours is a service industry where normal customer satisfaction comes in some form at least from employees of service, namely, satisfying service staff. A satisfying service owner and facilities, and a satisfying service processing.

At "unforgiving" customer is a highly demanding customer whose satisfaction comes from your satisfying all of their expectations—you first-in-one component and you fail in all.

That's why we termed their satisfaction as "multiplicative." If you score 100 in any 2 of the 3 service components but zero in one, the resulting product of the three is 100 times 100 times zero equals zero!

Forgiving customers

In contrast, a "forgiving" customer gets its satisfaction additively. Taking the 3 scores in the preceding, this customer's overall satisfaction equals 100 plus 100 plus zero or 200. That's two-thirds or 67 percent of the total 300.

So overall, even if you fail in one, there's still high enough satisfaction if you're okay in the other ones.

In hotel issues such as what we are currently experiencing and for a hotel business, you will tend to have more of the unforgiving, rather than forgiving, customers. They are the more complaining and angry-type.

You also expect a rising number of complaints.

Managing complainers

Lastly, we'd like to say something about how you manage the complainers.

You mentioned that you tabulate the weekly complaints and "fix the most mentioned of them (the top 3 or 4), asked the operations group concerned to do something." That's managing things in the right direction, but it's not enough.

You have to manage two sides of the complaint population: the total as well as the individual. Your current system is directed at the total and it's efficiency-oriented. To respond quickly and as orderly as possible, you get operations to do something about "the top 3 or 4 most mentioned" complaints. That's of course better than not doing anything or doing something at random.

But you have to do something about individual complainers. What exactly can you do that will matter to the customers but without necessarily tying up your company's costly human resources time? You may want to benchmark against and learn from how Hewlett-Packard (HP) in the United States responded to customer complaints.

We once heard from an HP executive who was an Ateneo student of the mid-'60s or that such customer complaint that HP/USA customers got assigned immediately upon receipt to a Customer Service (CS) staff. It then becomes the responsibility of the assigned CS staff to resolve the complaining customer, discuss the complaint, and if found with merit, solve the underlying problem.

Each CS staffer then files a written report on each assigned complaint. The CS staff's compensation and bonus are calibrated against resolved complaints, among others. One source tells us that the entire system worked well.

It was simple, easy-to-implement and cost-effective.

(Thanks for your questions. Keep sending them to dondmarketing@gmail.com or marketing@phildhl.net.)

By Karen Y. de Asis
Correspondent

FILIPINOS HAPPEN to be among the most avid value seekers, beating Singapore, Portugal, Germany and India.

What shoppers are not driven simply by the cost of the product or service. They are willing to buy more expensive, even branded products and services, but they have to feel that they are getting the right value for their money.

New product, service and retail concepts are important to value shoppers and often drive their purchases.

With the retail landlords however, happen to support new store concepts, not recognizing that a good balance of new and established concepts optimizes retail value.

Barriers to new retail store concepts

Most of the times, investing in new ideas and store concepts comes with risk. Thus, most leasing or administrative personnel accountable for retail spaces find it much easier to assign store spaces to chain stores, stores belonging to mature categories or stores belonging to the same family of retailers.

Most and more spaces are allocated to mature categories e.g. food.

It is no wonder then that in a September 2009 MasterCard survey on "Global Recovery, Regional Rebound and Business Implications," it has been found out that in asia, the Philippines has the highest discretionary income spent on food, likely prompted by the availability of more food options than comparable size product items and services.

Lack of network. New store concepts often come from entrepreneurs with a contrarian mindset.

But these new entrepreneurs do not have the retail clout or network.

Often, their ideas become part of a high pile of applications for more spaces that those accountable for retail spaces sometimes never even bother to look at.

Saturated retail spaces. Established malls often have a multitude of tenants who have been with them for more than a decade.

Never mind if most of the tenants have not re-engineered or refreshed themselves, thus no longer contributing to mall foot traffic, as long as they regularly pay the rent on time.

Lack of core product or know-how of staff. Investing in spaces for new retail concepts requires guts and courage. This is an attribute only very few have.

Knowing which new store concepts to promote means that one has to be customer and market centric. Knowledge is more than just sensitive to customer needs.

This also means having to think and weigh the pros and cons of assigning spaces to mature category followers or new store concepts; or moving heavies and rents to bring new store concepts into the mall.

Lack of logistic support for new store concepts. Contrary to entrepreneurs may not have the financial or resource clout in chain stores or retail families allowing them to lease bigger spaces and pay higher rents.

On the other hand, entrepreneurs with fresh ideas will likely need smaller independent store spaces and definitely cannot pay high rental fees.

When retail landlords cater to value shoppers

Key to understanding Filipino value shoppers is to become customers oneself.

Philip Kotler, one of the world's renowned marketing gurus emphasized how being on top of competition means being ahead of the customer by understanding and articulating their needs even before they are able to remember it themselves.

In mind, customer-centricity is exhibited by the product or service offer.

And among retail landlords, having a roster of retail store tenants that meet the customers needs—latent, conserved or unmet and articulated needs—is a testament to one's level of customer sensitivity.

Innovation

Peter Drucker, the world's revered management guru said it rightly when he stressed that in business, the two most important functions are marketing/branding and innovation. When applied to retail, innovation is more or less than new store concepts and new ideas possibly coming from fresh, contrarian-minded entrepreneurs.

(The writer is author of "Color Addicts in The Mind: A Branding Story" available in all Bestsellers, Powerbooks and National Bookstore outlets. Email writer at karen.basa@yahoo.com or babacabal@yahoo.com.)

'Bagoong,' salted fish save family from poverty

LARENA, SIQUIJOR—BAGOONG IS A FISH sauce condiment in the Philippines.

For Siquijorenos who live in Central Visayas, bagoong talá (fish sauce) goes well with vegetables and a perfect dip for green mango or saba banana.

Bagoong talá is also the perfect source of income for hardworking wife and mother Remy Magbanjo of Barangay Bonlao, who got her bagoong inside Quezon Convent.

Barely graduated economics student, her husband rarely got hired to a construction laborer. When he does, get a job, he earns P150 a day.

Since he does not make enough money to cover the family's growing needs and expenses, Remy had to pitch in.

"Every day, we either have an egg or salted dried fish, because that's all my husband's earnings can afford. Having instant noodles worth P5 on our dining table was already a feast," said Remy, who struggles to balance their budget for their daily needs such as food, their children's healthcare and school fees.

Remy is only a high school graduate. Poverty stopped her from pursuing college studies.

Now, as a mother, she strives hard to support her children's education so they can have better chances in life by subsidiarily pursuing her business.

OPERATION Blessing provided Remy with livelihood assistance to start her venture.

Siliparan and persimmon seeds Remy's specialties as an aspiring entrepreneur. She buys and sells goods to help sustain their everyday necessities.

"I try to buy anything from the market and I go from house to house to resell it," she said.

"Thank you to Operation Blessing. I am so happy because I can provide better for my children. I can also give more variety in food and attend to their needs. Now I know that God never forgets even people like us," said Remy, who did not expect to get assistance just few shockup and stockdown during Operation Blessing's medical mission to Siliman.

Operation Blessing provided Remy with the support and the funds to start a microenterprise involving bagoong talá and salted dried fish.

Operation Blessing Philippines is the humanitarian arm of CBN Asia, producer of the daily inspirational TV show The 700 Club Asia.

Its exemplifies compassion through medical outreach, disaster relief, community development, microenterprise activities, and construction of potable water sources in underserved communities all over the country.

(To know more about OB projects and how to partner, call 8122081 or 4122012 or visit www.obphil.com.)

GOINGS-ON

LBC broadens operations

LBC, THE COUNTRY'S PIONEER IN THE EXpress and cargo industry, has broken new ground by conquering the remittance and cargo market of over 250,000 migrant Filipinos in Australia.

Almost a year ago, LBC opened its Sydney Wiz Money outlet and has begun its cargo service from the migrant Filipino-populated Blacktown. As of July 2009, LBC Australia Pty. Ltd. has served more than 5,000 customers, delivering almost 10,000 balikbayan boxes.

Shortly after, LBC Australia opened its second warehouse location in Melbourne, Victoria, to ease outbound cargo demand for its service not just in Sydney but also in other Australian territories.

Overall, LBC Express has 82 branches in the United States, one in Madrid, one in Barcelona, five in Hong Kong, two each in Singapore and Malaysia, one in Brunei and Dubai plus overseas branches in Italy.

Travel Club lends support

TRAVEL CLUB SUPPORTED THE 10TH National Retail Conference and Stores Asia Expo (NRCE) 2009 of the Philippine Retailers Association held last Sep. 10 to 12 at the SMX Convention Center.

With the theme "Opportunities in Crisis," PRA gathered together the best minds who spoke on the multifaceted areas of retail and effective responses to today's business challenges.

For more information on PRA, log on to www.philretailers.com, or call tel. no. 687-1182 to 91. PRA offices is at Unit 304-5 Jollibee Plaza Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

UP, PNOC-DMC ink agreement

UP PRESIDENT EMERLINDA R. ROMAN AND Philippine National Oil Corporation (PNOC) Development and Management (DMC) CEO Peter Anthony Abaya recently signed a memorandum of agreement allowing PNOC-DMC to evaluate the feasibility of undertaking water resources and energy-generating projects in the University's Diwalwal Land Grants, Laguna-Quezon Land Grants, and Makiling Forest Reserve.

Present during the signing were PNOC-DMC General Manager Atty. Joseph John M. Litonjua, UP Los Baños chancellor Dr. Luis Rey Velasco, PNOC-DMC board members Amador C. Caballo Jr. and Felix R. Mejica, UP VP for administration Antonio Samaniego, UP VP for public affairs Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo, UP VP for development Leonor Ten Brink, Jr., the UP VP for academic affairs Prof. Celia Adriano, and VP for legal affairs Atty. Theodoro Te.

The MOA is an important step towards utilizing UP's assets to generate additional funds to support the university's teaching, research and extension mandate as the country's flagship national university.

When IOUs become due

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Hidalgo

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS, AS THE SAYING goes. And this adage has never proved more credence than in current days.

It is bad enough to lose your cash or losses due to the foreclosures caused by "Ondoy" or "Pepeng."

The problem is compounded if those assets were acquired through bank financing because your obligation to pay the loan continues, unless you have mortgage or redemption insurance that will pay for these left value in case of loss or damage without any fault or negligence on your part.

The relief provided by the insurance cover is somehow eases the burden of looking for the money needed to get a replacement for the destroyed.

The situation is no less problematic for borrowers that underwent a similar experience.

Securitization payments for loans, secured or credit lines availed are not, as a rule, excused due to business reversals caused by nature's dilemma. The debt obligations remain outstanding.

Neither are members of mutual or associations be expected to be forgiving since they have their own financial obligations to settle and employees to pay.

It is a fence like those that a borrower's credit reputation becomes either a boon or a bane.

Liberality

Most banks and lending institutions are inclined to extend repayment periods, restructure loans or expand credit facilities to help distressed clients with good credit records.

Too bad if the clients do not have that reputation. The banks will not hesitate to quickly foreclose the loans on them.

For practical reasons, it does not make good business sense to foreclose mortgages or impose penalties and surcharges on good-paying borrowers who may miss some installment payments due to unfortunate events.

Foreclosures not only add to the financing institutions' nonperforming assets (with their accompanying infrastructure obligations), they may also have to put up reserves to cover the unpaid loans and, as a result, reduce the amount of resources available for lending.

Besides, business executives have simple instincts about the people who helped them or made their lives miserable during those times of need.

Those who refused or threw them a lifeline when floodwaters made it difficult for them to make bank ends meet will definitely not be included in their to do businesses with for in the future.

The task of renewing and restructuring arrangements with creditors is easier if only one or two are involved. Often, the holders of the lower debt deliver it to the bigger banks.

Default

The work becomes challenging in one-three or more creditors are in the picture. And, as in loan maintained leading arbiters, their agreements contain "cross default" provisions.

This means if the borrower fails to promptly pay its debts to any of the creditors, it shall be considered as in default for non-paying with the rest of the creditors.

This condition will arise regardless of the borrower's previous good payment record with the other creditors.

Need a default is triggered, the creditors can, depending on their respective agreements, gain or foreclose whenever needs the borrower may have put up to secure the loans or credit lines secured.

When that happens, the borrowers may find itself barred from entering its own premises because the key has been taken over by a creditor, or withdrawing from its bank account because its contents have been frozen, or demanding payment of receivables from its customers because they have been requisitioned to settle an unpaid loan.

In that scenario, the borrower's business may be all interest and payments, be overall good hopes.

To avoid this situation, it is essential that the borrower quickly talk to the creditors and persuade them to agree to restructure its debts under such terms and conditions that are fair to all the affected parties.

Negotiations

Inside as it may sound, getting individual creditors to agree to give it the favored debts or other loans on life is often easier to accomplish than when only one creditor is involved.

When a company is "too big to fail," meaning its collapse may give rise to serious losses to any of the creditors and, in the process, cause its overall loss, to the business of the distressed company is vital to the national interest that its lending would cause untold hardship to the public, creditors tend to be more accommodating and reasonable.

They know that unless they understand their demands, they could all lose if the negotiations fail.

The approach was evident in the way the United States government, with the help of some lending US banks, bailed out some ailing Wall Street investment banks for fear that letting them fail would cause irreparable damage to the economy.

Thus, it has been said that when a company owes a bank a small sum of money, the borrower is, or the bank's many.

But if the loan is huge, the roles are reversed. The borrower dictates the terms and conditions of the restructuring.

Of course, the bank can disagree, but it has very little room for maneuver to be able to have its way.

(For feedback, please write to raulhidalgo@gmail.com.ph.)

PRULINK

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	PRU LIFE UK ?? Current Week Oct. 20, 2009	Last Week Oct. 13, 2009
Bond Fund - Peso	1.75599	1.75599
Managed Fund - Peso	2.03597	2.03597
Growth Fund - Peso	1.30599	1.30597
Equity Fund - Peso	0.75219	0.75219
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.50619	1.50619
Balanced Select Fund I	1.50661	1.50727
Balanced Select Fund II	1.58758	1.58808
Protector Fund - Peso	1.20599	1.20599
Money Market Fund - Peso	1.01661	1.01667

3 firms added . . .

From page B4

corporate will be added to the index sector indices, 30Min Profit Investments Corp. and Apex Mining Co. Inc. will become new members of the holding firms and mining sectoral indices, respectively.

The 30-record members of members to the sector indices reflects the shareholders as matters trading during the review period," Lim explained.

To be included in the PSEi, which is a basket of select 30 stocks, a listed company must satisfy five criteria: the free float level, liquidity, value turnover, tradability and free float market capitalization.

Free float, also known as public float, refers to the portion of the outstanding shares that are freely available and tradable in the market or those shareholdings which are non-strategic in nature. The free float portion should represent at least 10 percent of the outstanding shares of a listed stock.

In order to pass the liquidity criterion for the asset index, a stock must have an average daily value turnover of not less than P1 million to be considered for index retention.

The volume turnover criterion provides that the total volume of shares traded must be at least 1/2 percent of the company's public float.

To meet the tradability criterion, a company must be traded at least 95 percent of the days that its shares are eligible for trading.

Free float market capitalization is to be computed using the total weighted average price of a listed stock during a particular review period.

Market Rider

From page B4

NMI Limit. Under these circumstances, the trading strategy "exit out" and play catching-up is as it moves up should make more sense than be caught in it as it goes down at this point.

(You may email the Market Rider at marketrider@inquirer.com.ph or directly at abscontact@yahoo.com.)

TABLE 1

STOCK	SYMBOL	NO. OF SHARES	LAST PRICE	BUY	SELL	CHANGE
Monthly						
ALI	ALI	0.00	0.00			0.00
		0.00	0.00			0.00

TABLE 2

Performance Standings
As of October 21, 2009 of Week 22

Rank	Player	Beginning Investment (Week 1) Php	Cash Value of Investment (Week 22) Php	Market Value of Investment Php	Cash Balance Php	Total Assets Php	%
1	[illegible]	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	0.00
2	[illegible]	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	0.00
3	[illegible]	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	0.00
4	[illegible]	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	0.00
5	[illegible]	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	0.00
6	[illegible]	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	0.00
7	[illegible]	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	0.00
8	[illegible]	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	0.00
9	[illegible]	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	0.00
10	[illegible]	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	0.00

TABLE 3

Stocks' Performance as of Close of Business of Trading Session October 21, 2009

Industries	Total No.	The Stocks	All Issues	Gain Stocks	Same Stocks	Loss Stocks	Advances	Declines
Banks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Property	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holding Firms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mining	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUJI XEROX

AT THE HEIGHT OF ONDOY

Fuji Xerox Philippines proactively assessed the damage and began servicing units, bringing each customer back into operation.

"Prints, layouts and working drawings are critical to our operations. Typhoon Ondoy or any other calamity will not stop BF Metal in making sure that our operations are running. Fuji Xerox is truly a partner, anytime."

Mr. Erick Annes
Group Purchasing & Logistics Manager,
BF Metal Corp.
Ortigas Extension Cainta

"After Typhoon Ondoy, I really thought we will not be able to print or copy for our customers. Now I know better. With Fuji Xerox, I never need to worry."

Ms. Penny Lozito
Branch Manager,
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HSBC upbeat on RP commercial banking

By Doris C. Dumlao

HSBC HOLDINGS PLC, the world's largest banking and financial services group, is bullish on the Philippines' commercial banking sector, saying it is poised to grow faster than the rest of Asia.

HSBC, which has been in the country since 1981, said it is optimistic that the Philippines will be able to withstand the global economic crisis.

"We're bullish on the Philippines. We've been here for 28 years and we've been through a lot of cycles. We've been through the Asian crisis, we've been through the dot-com bubble, we've been through the Gulf War, we've been through SARS, we've been through the global financial crisis and we've been through the Philippine crisis. We've been through a lot of cycles and we've been through a lot of cycles and we've been through a lot of cycles and we

Asean leaders tackle economic crisis, disasters

Easing flow of trade, investment, people within region on the agenda

HUA HIN, THAILAND—ASEAN LEADERS start their meet today to discuss ways to further deepen economic ties in order to sustain the region's rebound from the recent global downturn, diplomats said on Thursday.

With parts of the region still reeling from natural disasters, the leaders are also expected to grapple with ways to improve rescue capabilities and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid, they said.

The annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit and related meetings with key regional partners kick off today at this elite beach resort in Thailand about 200 kilometers south of Bangkok.

The Asean summit involving Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam will be followed by talks with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.

Asia's quick rebound from the global recession compared with the United States and other Western economies is expected to set the mood for talks on further fostering the flow of trade, investment and people across the region.

"Asia is poised to take on a bigger role on the global stage after the dust from the economic crisis has settled," a senior Southeast Asian trade official told AFP.

"Integration is the key to unlocking Asia's full potential. For Southeast Asia, the recovery needs to be sustained for the long term, so the right policies must be put in place early."

Bridget Welsh, a Southeast Asia expert at the Singapore Management University, said Asean's newly ratified charter "provides more accountability and progress for economic integration."

Integration "is one means of buffering the vulnerability of Asian internal economic changes globally," Welsh said, adding however that achieving it will be an "uphill battle."

Central to the integration efforts is Asean's goal to establish a single market and manufacturing base by 2015, and expanding trade and economic links to include its major regional trading partners such as China and India.

"Asean is well on its way to integrating into one regional community by 2015 in line with its charter," the grouping's Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan told reporters in Bangkok on Wednesday.

He said that within the past decade, the bloc's combined export value jumped three-fold to $1.7 trillion from $576 billion. Trade within the region of nearly 600 million people also increased four-fold, he said.

In the same period, Asean's trade with Japan and the European Union also increased three-fold, with China and Australia at least multiplying it 10-fold, and with India it had jumped six-fold, Pitsuwan added.

Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo said in remarks published Wednesday that one key issue will be how to increase Southeast Asia's links by air, land, water and information technology with emerging Asian powers China and India.

"If we Asean, in our own integration, make sure that our links connect to them, not only will Asean be linked to China and India—we'll also link China and India together," Yeo said in an interview with Singapore's Straits Times. AFP

China posts Q3 growth of 8.9%

SHANGHAI—CHINESE ECONOMY expanded 8.9 percent in the third quarter, pumped up by easy credit and massive government spending that have ensured a recovery while the United States, Japan and Europe continue in fetters.

The world's third largest economy grew 7.7 percent in the first nine months of 2009, lowering fresh fears a slowdown that began late last year. Officials say they are confident of reaching an annual growth target of 8 percent.

"We can say no less than this one real remarkable achievement in our economic growth," National Statistics Bureau spokesperson Li Xiaolian told reporters in Beijing.

"We have quickly reversed the economic slowdown. The momentum of the recovery is solid and overall, our economic performance is showing signs of improvement," Li said.

China fought off the global downturn with a 4-trillion yuan ($586 billion) stimulus plan involving massive spending on infrastructure such as rail and roads to boost the domestic economy as export demand slumped.

The economy grew 2.4% with growth jumping to 7.9 percent in the second quarter of the year from 6.1 percent in the first quarter.

Xinhua News agency, China's state-run news outlet, said the country's economy has overcome its most difficult period and is recovering in other major economies.

Industrial output rose 8.7 percent in the first three quarters of the year, and 12.4 percent in July-September—signaling accelerating demand, the statistics bureau said.

But while surging purchases of coal, iron ore and other materials have aided global miners like BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto, the impact of China's comeback has mainly been one of supporting global sentiment than of actually driving growth, and Stephen Green, economist for Standard Chartered bank in Shanghai. AP

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) announces the opening for application or recommendation of vacant judgeship positions in the following courts:

NCJR	**LAGUNA**	**CEBU**
CALOOCAN CITY	RTC, San Pablo I	RTC, Branch
RTC, Br 122		MTCC, Carcar
VALENZUELA CITY	**PALAWAN**	Samboan
RTC, Br 75	1st MCTC, Coron-Busuanga	
MeTC, Br 81	Magsaysay	**NEGROS ORIENTAL**
		2nd MCTC, Bais-Mabinay-Basay
REGION I	**QUEZON**	1st MCTC, Canlaon
BENGUET	RTC, Br 62, Pagbilao	
RTC, Br 62, Baguio City	Agdangan	**REGION VIII**
		EASTERN SAMAR
REGION II	**REGION IV**	MTCC, Dolores-Balang
ISABELA	**BATANGAS**	
2nd MCTC, Ilagan-Cabagan	MTCC, Br 2, Lipa City	**LEYTE**
		MTC, Palompon
REGION III	**REGION VI**	MTC, Villaba
BULACAN	**ILOILO**	
MTC, Br 1, San Jose		**NORTHERN SAMAR**
MTC, Br 14	**NUEVA ECIJA**	1st MCTC, Catarman-Lapinig
Guiguinto	1st MCTC, Jaenitay-	Mapanas
	Bongabon	2nd MCTC, Catubig-Las Navas
PAMPANGA		
MTC, Dau	**CAPIZ**	**SAMAR**
	RTC, Br 18, Roxas City	2nd MCTC, Paranas-San
BULACAN	MTC, Pontevedra	Sebastian
MTCC, Brs 2 & 3,	2nd MCTC, Sorsogon-Castilla	2nd MCTC, Villareal-Pinabacdao
San Jose Del Monte		
	NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	**REGION X**
REGION IV	MCTC, Valladolid-Don Salvador	**AGUSAN DEL SUR**
MARINDUQUE	Pulupandan	MCTC, Bayugan-Sibagat
1st MCTC, Torrijos-Gasan 4th		
MCTC, Mogpog-Santa	**REGION IX**	**MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL**
MTC, Boac	**ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR**	MTCC, Br 1, Oroquieta City
	2nd MCTC, Bayog-Lakewood	
CAMARINES SUR		
RTC, Br 58, Iriga City		

Applications or recommendations for these positions must be submitted not later than **23 November 2009 (Monday)** to the Secretariat, Judicial and Bar Council, Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila. Fax No. 552-9622 or Fax No. 552-9837 or e-mail address: judicialbarcouncil@gmail.com. Applications/recommendations must contain all of the following:

[illegible]

This JBC also announces that the following are applicants for different judgeship positions:

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC), MANDAUA CITY (Br 56): ARAGON, Ferdan Gregory O.; **ARANAS**, Roberto I.; **ARELA**, Rosa Sharon C.; **ARCOSITA**, Benedicto Jr. M.; **AZAÑADA**, Gloria C.; **AZARCON**, Ferdinand P.; **BARRIOS**, Gabriel C.; **BAUTISTA**, Rolando Jr. M.; **BAYLON**, Christopher Z.; **BELTRAN**, Ferdinand C.; **BLANCO**, Emilio Jr.; **BORROMEO**, Ferdinand C.; **BRIONES**, Joselino M.; **BUENAVENTURA**, Rolando P.; **BUSTAMANTE**, Alfonso M.; **CALDERON**, Jose M.; **CALLE**, Eladio C.; **CALONGE**, Ernesto G.; **CAMACHO**, Arturo V.; **CASTRO**, Rolando V.; **CATUIRAN**, Rolando V.; **CERVANTES**, Daniel G.; **CHAVEZ**, Lydia C.; **CRUZ**, Teresita C. DE CASTRO, Pedro V.; **DE GUZMAN**, Fernando S.; **DEVANDIS**, Pedro B.; **DIAZ**, Augusto C.; **DIVINAGRACIA**, Edith B.; **DIMALIBOT**, Florentino P. II; **DIMALIWAT**, Edmundo B.; **DIPON**, Ma. 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The public may submit sworn complaint, written report or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants not later than 5 November 2009 (Thursday) at the JBC Secretariat.

All applicants for judicial positions must submit to the JBC ASAP via fax, mail or e-mail their updated JBC Form 1 (Revised September 2001) proof of age and Filipino citizenship, and NSO/GSIS/BIR/Bar/Integrity Board clearances, latest photograph, certificate and results of medical examination and other requirements before the date scheduled for their interview.

Those who fail to submit the necessary requirements shall neither be interviewed nor considered for nomination.

22 October 2009.

MA. LOURDES VILLAREAL
Clerk of Court II, JBC
Ex Officio Secretary

Asian markets lower after Wall St. weakness

HONG KONG—ASIAN STOCK MARkets dropped Thursday as weakness on Wall Street and confirmation of China's economic recovery led investors to take profits from a recent rally.

Major markets were lower by about 1 percent, while oil retreated from a 2009 high and the dollar recovered modestly against the yen.

Investors in Asian were spooked by US markets falling late Wednesday after a leading analyst downgraded major US bank Wells Fargo & Co. That combined off more fears about the financial sector and combined with profit-taking ahead the pace of the market's rise dragged the Dow below the 10,000 level.

Meanwhile, figures showing China's economy expanded at a heady 8.9 percent in the third quarter, in line with market expectations, gave investors no reason to switch gears into the markets.

Despite the mostly positive economic reports, some analysts and Chinese experts and private investment were still limping, suggesting growth was largely the result of enormous government stimulus spending.

Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average fell 93.67, or 0.9 percent, to 10,249.32, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 223.82 points, or 1.1 percent to 22,062.29.

In China, the Shanghai index lost 7.88 points, or 0.2 percent, to 3,043.38. South Korea's benchmark fell 1.5 percent. Australia's index was off 0.5 percent and India's market fell 0.2 percent.

In New York overnight, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 95.12, or 0.9 percent, to 9,949.36, just above its low of the day. It was the biggest point and percent drop since Dec. 5.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 9.86, or 0.9 percent, to 1,081.40, after touching 1,081.36, its highest level in the past year. The Nasdaq composite index fell 13.74, or 0.6 percent, to 2,190.73.

Oil prices dipped below $81 a barrel Thursday as a weekly US dollar standard benchmark crude for December delivery fell 28 cents to $80.99 a barrel. The contract dropped $2.25 overnight as the dollar fell to its lowest since August 2008.

In currencies, the dollar was younger at 97.15 yen from 97.00 yen. The euro fell to $1.4991 from $1.4999. AP

PEOPLE shop for the much-awaited Microsoft Windows 7.0 Operating System at Best Buy in Rhinestone Springs, Florida. AP

Korea's Hyundai records big Q3

SEOUL—HYUNDAI MOTOR CO. beat forecasts with a record quarterly profit as government incentives helped strong sales of its cheap, fuel-efficient models, setting the bar impossibly high for its struggling Japanese rivals.

Hyundai's strong results, its second record quarter profit in a row and more than double year-ago figures, come as the global auto industry struggles to emerge from its worst ever downturn.

Honda Motor Co. is the only major Japanese car maker expected to post an operating profit in the black from April-Dec. the Nikkei business daily reported on Thursday.

But Hyundai has taken advantage of the turmoil, ramping up its marketing spend to gain market share and overtaking Ford Motor Co. to become the world's fourth largest automaker by sales in the first half of this year when even combined with affiliate Kia Motor Corp.

"There are stunning earnings," said Kazutaka Ishihara, CEO at Kabuten Investment Management in Tokyo. "The figures reflect Hyundai's increased share in the Chinese and North American markets, and that's a threat to Japanese automakers."

But Hyundai warned of a future slowdown, citing oil prices and higher interest rates might hit earnings in the months ahead and its shares were little moved, after a 50-percent surge in the third quarter.

"Third quarter earnings came over strong and the 4th quarter could be also excellent, thanks to the new model launch, but maintenance is likely to slow next year," said Choi Jong-Hyuk, a fund manager at Mirae Asset Management. "It will be difficult to beat this year." Hyundai's Genesis sedan and redesigned Sonata have proved popular, while earlier schemes offering US buyers the chance to return new cars if they lost their job or to fix in fuel prices for a year also won admirers.

Hyundai posted a net profit of 879.1 billion won ($632 million) in the third quarter, more than three times the 264.8 billion won of a year ago and beating a 614.3-bil. lion won forecast by 11 analysts in a Reuters poll. Net profits were boosted by equity gains from overseas units, the company said.

Its operating profit of 586.0 billion won was a first since the 1,813 billion won peak.

Hyundai shares dipped 0.8 percent after the results, having far outperformed a 14.5 percent gain in the country's main Kospi index in the third quarter.

But both Hyundai and the broader index have lost ground since amid concerns over the impact of a stronger won.

The won is recovering on the back of weakness in the dollar. It gained 4.1 percent versus the dollar in the third quarter and is up 26 percent since early March.

Hyundai's rivals in Japan are also struggling to cope with a weak dollar and their relative reliance on the United States and their home market, both of which are struggling with the weakest economy in decades.

World No. 1 Toyota Motor Co. is expected to post an equivalent quarterly net loss of around 22 billion yen ($235 million) when it reports early next month. Reuters

MPIC increases stake in Makati Med

Company acquired 77% of new shares sold under stock rights offering

By Doris C. Dumlao

METRO PACIFIC INVESTMENTS CORP. MEDICAL HOLDINGS FIRM METRO Pacific Investments Corp. has beefed up its stake in the company that operates the 550-bed Makati Medical Center to about 56 percent.

This was done by taking up most of the new shares sold under a stock rights offering.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, MPIC said it acquired over 77 million shares in Makati Doctors Inc. had accepted to P165.98 million worth capital infusion equivalent to about 239,982 new shares. This represented about 77 percent of the new shares offered for subscription by MDI to existing shareholders at P1,383 per share.

The hospital targeted to raise as much as P206.4 million from this offering and MPIC was willing to gobble up any shares not taken up by other shareholders.

MPIC's subscription of most of the shares brought up its ownership share in MDI from 52.39 percent to 54.58 percent, the disclosure said.

Makati Med is expanding its operations to increase outpatient services. It has also put up a new building to accommodate a larger volume of business.

The fast-lifestyle business is one of the fastest-growing business in MPIC's infrastructure portfolio, which also includes toll roads (Metro Pacific Tollways Corp.), water distribution (Maynilad Water Services Inc.) and power utilities (Manila Electric Co.).

MPIC's vision is to hit the critical mass of 3,000 to 5,000 hospital beds and form the largest hospital chain in the country. Under such a strategy, the sharing of medical expertise will be institutionalized under a single group management following all the hospitals is based from the specialization of certain medical fields in the units under the same network. The system is also seen to reduce overhead cost and allow the group to price its services more competitively.

The group, which is led by Manuel V. Pangilinan, also owns about a third of the 250-bed Davao Doctors Hospital and operates the 210-bed Cardinal Santos Medical Center under a 20-year concession agreement. Over the years, MPIC has chalked a foothold in the hospital business by having key contributions in hospital projects, as in the previous case of Makati Med or where there was a shareholders squabble like Davao Doctors.

In the first half of this year, the hospital group posted about P2.6 billion in revenue and about P249 million in net profit.

FIRST GEN SOLAR LIGHTING SYSTEM: Volunteers hoist a solar panel to the roof of a learning center in the riverine resettlement community of Pangasian Island near Negros Occidental which is not connected to the Visayas power grid. Pangasian is being presented as a watershed reserve destination by the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc. (PRRCFI), a nonprofit organization. It, however, does not want to bring in Pangasian a conventional, diesel-fired electric generator, because its carbon emissions would upset the island's ecosystem. Thus, PRRCFI operations make use of a solar lighting system from First Gen Renewables Inc., a unit of First Gen Corp., to power the learning center's requirements.

Philippine Seven earmarks P600M for 2010 capex

By Amy R. Remo

PHILIPPINE SEVEN CORP., THE LOCAL licensee of convenience store chain 7-Eleven, plans to allocate P600 million for its capital expenditures in 2010.

In a joint briefing with Chevron Philippines yesterday, PSC president Jose Victor P. Emerico said that of the amount, about P400 million would be earmarked for retail network expansion.

According to Emerico, the company targets to open as many as 120 7-Eleven outlets in 2010, although they have yet to determine how many of these would be franchised.

It costs about P5 million to set up one 7-Eleven outlet, which, on the average, brings in P50,000 in sales per day.

About P200 million would be earmarked for other projects, including the upgrading of PSC's corporate and the improvement of its distribution facilities.

For 2009, PSC had targeted to open 80 new outlets, about half of which would be under franchising arrangements.

Overall, franchised stores account for 80 percent of the business. As of end-June, the company has 400 outlets in Luzon.

Of the target number of outlets, PSC expects 21 to be opened in Chevron (formerly Caltex) retail stations under an exclusive agreement, which was signed by the two companies two months ago.

Emerico earlier said he expected the company to sustain its growth for the period of 2009 despite the challenging economic environment and rising competition from expanding supermarket chains.

To cope with the difficult environment, Emerico said the management had prepared "alternative approaches" to its operations, product mix and pricing, which were expected to ensure sustained sales.

"We are optimistic that our initiatives and experience, over the 25 years since our store first opened...Manila's most competitive good retail not just to cope but to position PSC for growth in the succeeding years," he said.

Emerico earlier expressed optimism in the continued growth of the business presence outstanding industry as the country, many of whom provide 7-Eleven with a steady stream of business due to the around-the-clock nature of their operations.

Nido farms out 10% of SC54A interest

AUSTRALIAN FIRM NIDO Petroleum Ltd. has farmed out 20 percent of its interest in Service Contract (SC) 54A in offshore Palawan to the world's third largest underproduced oil reserve for $7.5 million.

In a regulatory filing, Nido president & CEO Emmanuel de Dios disclosed that the company had secured the farm-out agreement with Trafigura Maurice (HK) Pte.

Trafigura also acquired another 5-percent participating interest in SC54A from Australian firm Reinli Energy Ltd., which is Nido's joint venture partner for SC54A.

Upon closing of the sector contract a new down to 50 percent from 60 percent, Reinli, through subsidiary Yilgarn Petroleum Philippines Pty Ltd., now holds 25 percent, while Trafigura has a 15-percent interest.

"[Nido's] farm-out agreement is subject to final legal due diligence and Philippine government approvals," Nido said.

SC54A covers the Tidal and Tindalo oil discoveries, which were estimated to yield some 58 million barrels of oil.

As per consortium modification farming agreement, Trafigura Pte Ltd. will market Nido's net share of the oil produced from SC54A.

Nido is finalizing arrangements for the said undergoing final investment approvals for the Tindalo project, Amy R. Remo

Petron to issue preferred shares

PETRON CORP. YESTERDAY SAID IT WAS targeting to raise as much as P500 million through a preferred share issue, but it did not give details of timing.

Petron told the Philippine Stock Exchange that proceeds from the offering would be used to "finance several capital and investment projects."

Company officials, however, said they could use some shortly to provide additional funds.

In May, the company said it was planning to spend as much as $1 billion on additional refinery units, and that financing would come from a bank and a preferred share issue.

At that time, Petron was looking at issuing P15 billion worth of preferred shares.

In that month, the company raised P10 billion from the sale of five- and seven-year fixed-rate notes to fund its expansion.

Petron is in the expansion plan include the building of a second Residual catalytic cracking (RCC) unit that will enable the full conversion of residual products into higher-value gasoline, LPG, diesel and propylene.

Petron last year began operating its first RCC, which converts 75 percent of every barrel of crude oil into "white" products.

The company has a capacity of 180,000 barrels per day and supplies nearly 40 percent of the country's fuel requirements.

Asia Miguel Cuaderno on stockbrokers to buy 6.50-1-percent units in Petron from 0.8, investment firm Asiasec Group as it moves to take over refinery from its cozy food and drinks business.

Shares of Petron closed unchanged on Thursday at P5, while Manila's main stock index fell 1.07 percent. Reuters

Benguet names financial adviser

LISTED FIRM BENGUET CORP. YESTERDAY said it had appointed ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc. as its financial adviser for its plan to raise as much as P500 million for the Bulalo Tailings Project.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Benguet said it had signed a memorandum of agreement with Reynaldo P. Mendoza said the planned project would involve the reprocessing of mine tailings to recover gold.

Mendoza explained that the Bulalo Tailings project might also include other processing activities such as washing of ore, conveying waste to ready-to-build engineered areas and others may also yield another marketable by-product of sulfuric acid.

In the immediate, Benguet said it also entered yesterday into a processing agreement with its wholly-owned subsidiary, Benguet Gold Resources Corp. (BGRC).

Under the agreement, BGRC is tasked to implement the project. It will also conduct research and development, engineering and marketing study for the project.

"The move is in line with the plan to create additional revenue streams and to ensure the necessary funds to develop the project and create value for Benguet and its shareholders," Benguet said. Amy R. Remo

INVITATION TO BID FOR DSE PROJECT NO. BACC-2009-01
Purchase of Seven (7) Motor Vehicles (Diesel)

Lot No.	Type of Vehicle	Quantity	Location Delivery	Approved Budget for the Contract	Delivery Time
I	4x2 Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV), Diesel Engine	Three (3)	DSE Quezon City	P1,500,000.00	Within 60 days
II	Multi-Cab (Pick-up) 4x2 Diesel Engine, Dual Air Conditioning Unit	Three (3)	DSE Quezon City	P1,500,000.00	Within 60 days
III	Passenger Van	One (1)	DSE Quezon City	P1,500,000.00	Within 60 days

Sealed bids/offers shall be received at the Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Customs, 4th Floor, Customs Building, Port Area, Manila on or before 2:00 P.M. of November 17, 2009 after which time no bids/offers shall be received or considered. The Bids/Offers will be opened in the presence of the bidders/offerors or their duly authorized representatives at 2:00 P.M. of November 17, 2009 at the Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Customs, 4th Floor, Customs Building, Port Area, Manila.

The Bureau of Customs and the Bids and Awards Committee for Procurement (BAC) reserves the right to reject any and all bids/offers, to waive any defect therein, and to accept such bid/offer as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

For further information, please refer to:

ATTY. ROMEO C. CALLEJA, JR.
Chairman, BAC
Bureau of Customs
4th Floor, Customs Building
Port Area, Manila
Telefax No. 527-8494

Approved:
ATTY. ALBERTO D. LINA
Commissioner of Customs
Chairman, Board of Customs Administrators

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU
Regional Office No. CAR
Baguio City

NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR EXPLORATION PERMIT

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEPIS)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Nationality	Position
1	PANASONIC COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES CORPORATION (PCPC), Calamba City	Mr. Yasuki Sato (Japanese)	Manager – Factory Control
2	MEC TOKIN ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC. (MEPI), Brgy. La Mesa, Calamba City	Mr. Masaki Mizuno (Japanese)	Assistant to Director
3	KIMU HUNG PLASTICS COMPANY, INC. Brgy. Sta. Anastacia, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Mr. Sungwei Chang (Chinese)	Production Operations Supervisor
4	KIMU HUNG PLASTICS COMPANY, INC. Brgy. Sta. Anastacia, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Mr. Fengyi Pan (Chinese)	Mold Supervisor
5	LEVINCO, INC. Brgy. Bagy Kanluran, Calamba City	Mr. Kwangwoon Jeong (Korean)	Mold Designer
6	HEGAN APPAREL CO., INC. PCIE, Brgy. Lamesa, Calamba City	Mr. Sung-Ho Lee (Korean)	Admin Manager
7	YUSEN LOGISTICS (PHILIPPINES), INC. CPI, Brgy. Canlubang, Calamba City	Mr. Hiroto Nakamura (Japanese)	Manager for Operations (Cebu Sales Office)
8	NICHIA PHILIPPINES CORPORATION PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Takayuki Tuji (Japanese)	Plant Manager
9	ASIA BUSINESS CENTER, THE MANILA HOTEL/NISSAN INT'L. ENGLISH ACADEMY, INC. Mahogany Market, Gen. Luna, Cavite	Ms. Junko Park (Korean)	General Manager

If you have any information/evidence to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with this Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, JR., CESO III
Regional Director

ICQCC 2009

QCC: Reinventing Successes

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Productivity Improvement Circles Association of the Philippines, Inc. (PICAP) and to all the participants to the 33rd International Convention on Quality Circles (ICQCC) to be held in Cebu City.

Your theme, "QCC: Reinventing Success," shows your firm commitment to promote emphasis on quality and productivity improvement in the various industries that you are serving.

I am certain that the 1,200 foreign and local delegates composed of managers, consultants and the like, would enhance their knowledge and skills through the sharing of learning and best practices on quality and productivity improvement.

I wish you success in your conferences. To all foreign delegates, welcome to the Philippines and Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Mabuhay!

We cordially invite quality control and productivity improvement practitioners to the 33rd ICQCC on October 25-28, 2009 at the Cebu International Convention Center, Cebu City.

It should be exciting as we are unified by a common circumstance in the midst of worldwide financial crisis. QCC: Reinventing Successes in the future we have chosen as our rally around for strengthened practices and new ways of ensuring that quality ideas, technology and systems help our companies and ourselves endure the test of times.

If we were able to share success stories during relatively good years, it is expected that all the more reasons we should put our heads together and help one another during this worst to beat the odds. This is the noble mission of ICQCC.

We look forward to meeting you in Cebu, to what promises to be a challenging gathering of concerned quality professionals and practitioners.

Leonardo B. Abalajon
Chairman - ICQCC 2009

BRIEF HISTORY OF ICQCC

The idea of organizing the International Convention on Quality Control Circles began in 1975 during the Korean Control Conference. The organizers then proposed to widen the exchange of ideas and experiences on Quality Control Circle activities. A year after, the first international event materialized in Seoul.

This has since become an annual gathering of QCC practitioners from 17 member Asian countries, Bangladesh, China, Chinese Taipei, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Convention delegates are general practitioners, professionals, facilitators, trainers, QC circle members from various industries, private and government agencies, and the academe as well. In later years, an increasing participation from Africa, the United States, Europe, Australia and New Zealand is seen.

Over the years and in keeping with new developments, the event featured other quality improvement initiatives. However, the basic approach of people involvement through QCC meetings and focus of interest were as variant approaches emerged.

The Japan Union of Scientists and Engineers (JUSE) administers the ICQCC. Hosting of the annual event, however, rotates from among member countries of the ICQCC Coordinating Committee. The Philippines, represented by the Productivity Improvement Circles Association of the Philippines (PICAP), has so far hosted two conventions: in 1994 and 1999.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONVENTION

This year's event features the Search for Outstanding Quality Control (QC) Projects, plenary papers, case study presentations, and technical paper presentations and learning sessions. It serves as a venue for recognizing achievements of groups/teams in continuous problem-solving, problem prevention and work improvement, highlighting competencies in the use of basic and advanced problem-solving processes.

The Convention is held at the Cebu International Convention Center, Mandaue City. Over 1,000 delegates have registered. Keynote speech will be delivered by Mr. Leonardo B. Abalajon, Deputy Control Manager of Del Monte Philippines, Inc.

WORKING COMMITTEE

Mr. Leonardo B. Abalajon
Convention Chairperson

Ms. Irene D. Sanchez
Convention Vice Chairperson

Ms. Cicely Alpon
Secretariat / Program

Ms. Lina L. Hilton
Secretariat

Ms. Delilah L. Soliva
Finance

Mr. Gay L. Mallea
Promotions

Mr. Edgar T. Sarmiento
Logistics

Mr. Dorothee D. Lachenis, Jr.
Ways and Means

Mr. Cesar R. Travina
Advisor

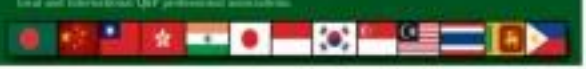
VISION

"a self-sought and preferred quality and productivity organization in the Philippines"

MISSION

We exist as a catalyst of work excellence to:

- Inspire continuing conversion of quality circles.
- Keep members motivated, informed and updated of developments in circle activities / practices, employee participation, and quality management.
- Promote quality philosophy and other quality and productivity initiatives across wide.
- Facilitate networking of chapter practitioners with local and international QuP professional associations.



Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE STATE COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City
Mabuhay St., Villamor Air Base, Pasay City
Tel Nos. 833-4431, Telefax 831-2-7703-0484

NOTICE OF EXTENSION FOR THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF SUC PRESIDENT I
OF THE PHILIPPINE STATE COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS
UP TO THE 30TH OF OCTOBER 2009

The submission of application and supporting documents for the position of SUC President I of the Philippine State College of Aeronautics is extended up to October 31, 2009.

1. Applicants for the Philippine SUC President I must possess the following minimum requirements:
   a. Not less than 15 years with at least seven (7) years of full-time management
   b. Graduate from a Philippine College
   c. Holder of an earned doctorate degree from a recognized higher education institution
   d. Proven track record in research and development, Peso Finances, Public Relations, Personnel Administration, Director's philosophy in the academe, whether in public or private, for at least five years
   e. Has considerable time (one not previously served as SUC President) relevant to the position and nature of any administrative offense, nor convicted by any court of any crime involving moral turpitude, nor has been dismissed from the service
   f. Has Skill Philosophy and can undergoing examination for a second term, holding any civil service eligibility and has the appropriate civil service eligibility
2. An applicant who does not have more than one of the above-mentioned minimum qualifications and cannot submit proof(s) supporting his candidacy to the position as stipulated above shall be considered disqualified.
3. Interested and Qualified and other forms which are to be copies within the one (1) month period of the search process, also attached to the Application.
4. Applicants who meet the requirements must submit one (1) set of original and one (1) certified photocopies of the following documents to the CCP Secretariat:
   a. Formal application letter addressed to Dr. Emmanuel F. Angeles, Chairman, Commission on Higher Education
   b. Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV) signed under oath
   c. Certified true copy of the personal data sheet (PDS) as filed with the CSC
   d. Philippine Birth, Medical and Employment Certificate
   e. Certificate/Clearance of the Pending Administrative and/or Criminal Cases from the following government agencies, addressed to Atty. Ester Jose Veneti from the Bank of Report Application:
      - Sandiganbayan
      - Civil Service Commission (CSC)
      - National Bureau of Investigation
      - Municipal/Regional Trial Court
      - Ombudsman (for government employees)
      - Independent company where applicant is presently employed
   f. NBI Authentication With Certificate
   g. Medical Certificate, in duplicate (three issued by a physician from an NBI-recognized accreditation board, stating that the applicant is physically and mentally fit to perform the duties of the position
   h. Results of Psychological Examination conducted by authorized from a CSC-recognized accredited Health Institution that is not more than six months before the applicant is personally endorsed, and
   i. Duly accomplished Data Form 2 in triplicate (with photo)

Background check will be conducted by the Search Committee to verify the validity of the submitted documents.

Applications with the required documents should be submitted on October 31, 2009 by way of the following:

DR. EMMANUEL F. ANGELES
Chairman
Commission on Higher Education
Higher Education Development Center Building
UP Diliman, Quezon City

ATTY. DOMINGO T. GUIDO
Chairman, Search Committee for PSAS SUC President I
c/o PSAS Legal Affairs
2nd Floor, ITT Main Building
Villamor, Quezon City

BCDA
Bases Conversion and Development Authority

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL

for the Selection of a Private Sector Partner for the Privatization of SCTEX

1. The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) intends to select a Private Sector Partner for the **Management, Operations and Maintenance of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX)** (the "Project").
2. The Private Sector Partner shall be responsible for the operational funding requirements for SCTEX, including insurance and the provision of the following services among others: Management Services, Toll Collection, Traffic Safety and Security Management, Toll Road Maintenance, including Greenery and Landscaping, and all Necessary Support Services.
3. It shall provide BCDA a contractual income/concession fee amounting to the peso equivalent of the pre-determined JCDI loan as well as all financing charges, payable to BCDA 15 days prior to its due dates, or twenty percent (20%) of the audited gross toll revenues, whichever is higher.
4. The Terms of Reference (TOR) shall be made available to prospective bidders from 29 October to 5 November 2009, between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address given below upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP250,000.00) payable to BCDA in Cash.

   Bases Conversion and Development Authority
   BCDA Corporate Center
   2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street
   Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City
   Taguig City, Metro Manila

5. A Pre-bid Conference shall be held on 10 November 2009 at BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City to discuss the TOR, and other issues that may be raised by the prospective bidders.
6. The BCDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Proposal, to annul the selection process, and to reject all Proposals at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Proponents.
7. Interested parties may obtain further information from:

   Chairperson, Asset Disposition Program Committee
   Bases Conversion and Development Authority
   2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street
   Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, 1634
   Taguig City, Metro Manila
   Tel. No. 816-0600
   Website Address: www.bcdagov.ph

or Ma'am Cecilia C. Mariano thru telephone number(s) 816-0600/815-1000, email address: mmariano@bcda.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) VICTOR V. SIMKUAN
Chairperson, ADP Committee

ERRATUM

In the advertisement of **MA. ANTONIA LUCERO** regarding Notice of Loss published in this paper on **September 13, 20 & 27, 2009**, the stock certificates should be in the name of **ESTEBAN M. MOGUILLA.**

Our apologies

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the holders of the two (2) lost Certificates of Title No. [illegible] of Makati City, have executed and delivered an Affidavit of Loss to Atty. Jaime Ty Gaerlan, Jaime Ty Gaerlan Law Offices, 2nd Floor, Unit 2, Philippine Stock Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Notice is hereby given that the holders of lost Certificates of Title No. [illegible] of Makati City, have executed and delivered an Affidavit of Loss to Atty. Jaime Ty Gaerlan, Jaime Ty Gaerlan Law Offices, 2nd Floor, Unit 2, Philippine Stock Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

More Classifieds

Land Transportation Office B2
Supreme Court of the Philippines B8
Astrolabe Mining & Development Corp. B9
Court of Tax Appeals B9
Dept. of Labor and Employment Region IV-A .. B9

CALL POEA
725-1144 or 725-1155

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Editor Thelma Bimson San Juan

Contributing Editors
Apples Alcaraz-Sadhwani
Jenni Epperson
and Ria Francisco-Prieto

ALWAYS Erbuz's chunky deco-art bib necklace, from Lanvin's Spring/Summer 2010 collection

The bib is your style statement these days

A simple tee, a lavish neck

By Stefanie Cabal

AS SOON AS BRITISH Vogue came out with its September issue, with supermodel Kate Moss on the cover wearing a toned-down cream trench coat paired with a crystal Zelda bib necklace made by our very own designer Bea Valdes, fashion had its eureka moment (yet another moment, that is): The bib necklace or collar necklace is the new statement accessory to covet.

Although this fashion statement has been popping up in the fashion runways of Valentino, Chanel and Louis Vuitton since the debut of their Spring/Summer 2009 collections, Mrs have resuscitated their fabulous life to this day as seen in the recently concluded Spring/Summer 2010 fashion shows.

From Alber Elbaz to Vera Wang, bibs are still "it." Elbaz played with chunky deco-art bibs that topped his formally sequined cocktail dresses for Lanvin. Wang, meanwhile, designed colorful bibs that were covering beaded organza bibs that hung loosely on a black crepe de chine jumpsuit, or on a gauze halter tank and organza puffy ballerina-skirt number.

Here in Manila, chunky bib necklaces have accessorized the tiniest cocktail dresses, basic LBDs, even plain tees.

Most street women who have been wearing statement-worthy bibs

Charm scarf

Joyce Makalalad had been designing statement neckpieces since 2003. She used to

THE BIB (2)

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UP TO 50% off
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Tel. Nos. 633-9982/ 638-7109
Glorietta 4 - 3rd Level, Rustan's Makati
Tel. Nos. 814-4774/ 818-1781

LUSTICO'S outstanding ability as a tailor is seen in his long coat jackets with trompe l'oeil, ruffle and tiered details on collars and sleeves. He also resorts to layering with beaded innerwear peeking from his matte, structured jackets.

Dennis Lustico blazes path with first solo show

By Rina Y. Vergara

AFTER "DREAM" AND "PHENIX" runwayshow brigandade, Dennis Lustico was finally able to shape his own brand of explosion through his long-awaited solo show Saturday at Makati Shangri-La Grand Ballroom.

In deference to the back-to-back dreamers' ecumenical storyline, the show's organizers, led by Inquirer Lifestyle's Yuen Peeno Dalden and Xiaye Tinga, wife of Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga, decided to promote the show originally set a little over two weeks ago at a different venue.

With the Philippine National Red Cross (Makati Chapter) as beneficiary, the black-tie affair, which had open and silent auctions, was reportedly able to raise almost P3 million for charity.

Guests savored the Filipino-inspired menu—mini vegetable lumpia, marinara seafood frittata and stylized chicken adobo, whipped up by Shangri-La's chef.

On top of the show's well-meaning intentions (hosts and performances, including Ia Fries, rendered their services pro bono), all eyes were on Lustico's 50-piece collection inspired by such iconic French symbols as fleur-de-lis and bags, Marie Antoinette-like ball gowns.

Except for a few noticeable misses, the designer delivered.

There remaining elements that defined the designers' past works were again present: Lustico's outstanding ability as a tailor, as seen in his long-tail jackets with trompe l'oeil, ruffle and tiered details on collars and sleeves; his eye for combining seemingly bold and disparate color combinations, his penchant for channeling extreme silhouettes from the past and making them look fresh and all his own.

Helping him realize his vision were director Ariel Lorenda, makeup artist Patrick Ibasa and stylist Noel Manuyad. Fellow designer James Reyes made the models' hats, while Joselyn provided the hair-up platform shoes.

Vibrant colors

The models' glam makeup and custom, "alien-esque" hairdos were ideal foils to the retro-inspired collection. The chunky shoes, however, needed to climb once the models stepped into gowns.

"Although my main source of inspiration was from a distant age," Lustico said a few days after the show, "the elements that make up some of my pieces were culled from the more recent past, particularly the '80s."

This was evident in his use of rich tones: colors as emerald green, electric blue, orange, coral and even Cozy yellow in a number of gowns made more interesting by what he described as "textures over" details made of tiered organdy that also resorted to layering with beaded innerwear peeking from his matte, structured jackets.

Apart from organdy, the designer made judicious use of jersey, taffeta, stretch tulle, cupa silk and silk chiffon.

"I don't know what I would do without chiffon," he said. "The usage of twisted, fine-cut fabrics I turned into skirts were made of chiffon. It was the first time I did it."

On top of his twisted skirts, the designer assembled ensembles with tiered draped harem pants (one pair had such a low crotch that almost touched the floor) also in chiffon.

Other references from that decadent decade included exposed and beaded shoulder pads in lieu of epaulets, a prominent padded black jacket that was more deep-dyed chic than punk, and ingenious trims and piping that doubled as trompe l'oeil collars and faux neckties.

The designer opened and closed his show on a high note. His mesh tops opened up with sequined bows hushed polished yet witty. He also did a number of eyeard glimmers in the form of updated peplums (vicious lacy materials in black and white.

His closing numbers, two of which were black gowns with dangling silver beadwork that resembled breastplates, were perhaps Lustico's version of Amidigh. Despite the absence of color, they were able to make heads turn, thanks to his impeccable cutting and soft draping.

Revealing number

At one point, he left nothing to the imagination as one model emerged in a revealing mirrored gown see-through numbers.

Shocking people, said Lustico, was farther from his mind. He simply wanted to highlight the female form without additional layers of fabrics weighing down his models.

Actually, from where we sat, it wasn't the model's chest that distracted us, but rather her huge fondness of scales.

With so voluminous references, the collection could have benefited a great deal from a little editing. Apart from Gilbaum, there was a bit of Lacroix and Chanel (a tiered, semi-beaded black dress with huge white bow on the waist) to some of his painstakingly constructed pieces.

The designer, though, begged to disagree.

"My main references were my best clients," he said. "I started working on my clothes with them in mind."

If his separates were a joy to behold—mini bags, long dresses with banana-cut detailing weaved sculpted down and a tail you will for comfort. A gold number with black appliqués and huge skirt flash-bound from a series of mesh tiered like it belonged to a different collection.

A blue number consisting of a pleated sculptural top paired with long, lean, slang skirt was also a glaring misstep. Not only was the pairing off, it was a bit un-flattering on the model, as portions of her midsection peeked from underneath the disjointed ensemble.

Epsoirs

Another element that unnecessarily obsequed an otherwise chic collection was a dreary pair of black satin pants with prominent ruching details. It stood out for the wrong reasons. Ditto with his profuse use of tiered ruffles on gowns and jackets.

Lustico also had a number of accessory "issues." Foremost of which was a stiff, low-slung white crisscrossed chest tie meaning to enhance the outfit. Unless he was aiming for a rugby feel, most of his headwork, especially on the tiered Chanel-like gown, was lackluster.

Despite such lapses, Lustico can never be accused of playing it safe. In fact, he took great risk by dismissing tried-and-tested formulas—from serpentine silhouettes to meretricious necklines.

"At first, I was afraid my clients wouldn't like my collections if I strayed too far from what I usually did," he said. "But in the end, I decided to take a different route. What's the point of staging a show only to retell an old story?"

We couldn't agree more.

'What's the point of staging a show only to retell an old story?'

CORSCAL "alien-esque" hairdos are ideal foils to the retro-inspired collection.

LUSTICO'S 50-piece collection is inspired by such iconic French symbols as fleur-de-lis and bags, Marie Antoinette-like ball gowns.

BLACK beaded neck bib, Cosmopolitan Clothing at The Rotunda, Glorietta 4, Makati

BLACK cutout lace, Cosmopolitan Clothing at The Rotunda

SOLID and copper veined beaded necklace with mother-of-pearl, Cosmopolitan Clothing at The Rotunda

JOYCE Nishida's marble necklace, House of Laurel

NICOLE Whitenhurst and Kat Nakanishi-Lim

The bib is your style . . .

From page C1

have a shop at Ayala Museum, her signature **scarf bib necklaces** are made of semi-precious stones set in solid brass and triple dipped in 24K gold. Her pieces are very versatile.

"You could take them apart and use the elements as individual pendants, and they still retain that shock and awe element," she says.

She wears her scarf bib during the day and in the evening, and pairs it with simple accessories.

"No outfit, just sleep! But have fun and break all the rules!" she says.

Heavily beaded

What used to be just a hobby for Marilyn Sipat, Salsarimbo designer for four years now, has become full-scale bib-creation for her, the high-end version of fashion wraps.

Having seen her mother's beaded pattern designs for bridal gowns when she was growing up, Sipat was inspired to recreate the beading technique on accessory pieces—and "by default, created the bibs," she says.

She started her creations using a large, precious colored stone, then delicately sewn complementary stones around it, creating a gigantic fabulous statement-necklace.

"If you plan to wear a gown with a complicated design, keep the bib simple. But if your gown is simple, then go for an exotic and colorful bib!" she says.

She also recommends wearing a larger bib for a long neckline, and vice versa. Pairing the day-stud with a solid colored tank top or basic T-shirt is the evening, toss a bib with lots of sparkle.

Big and bold

When this young lady debuted her collection at the posh Members Only club in The Fort, socialites and personalities came in full support, adorned in her dazzling bib creations.

Nicole Whitenhurst bombarded each neckpiece and used various materials ranging from pearls to semi-precious stones.

"The shades and shapes are never exactly alike; each piece has a character of its own," she says.

Her stylish clients include Audrey Tan Zubiri, Camille Villar, Cindy Ting, Julienne Uy, Liz Uy, Bella Gercayo and Joanna Gindlani, among others.

"Most like the bibs because they are eye-catching. They wear the pieces during the day to lunches or event where they go to Bling! They keep their outfit simple, while having the bib neckpiece as the focal point," she says. "When worn in the evenings, the light bounces off the piece and the bib tends to flicker because of the intricate beadwork."

How to wear it

Pair a bib necklace with your most basic and simple pieces or they won't compete with your bib neckpiece. No dangling pantomo on your outfit, please.

For daring and wear it with just a sure, tinted tuxedo jacket, a la PSL. Think big and bold for your lobe, the more lavish is in, the better—dripping in sparkle and gloss, embellished with intricate beads adorned with gigantic semi-precious stones and jewels.

If it isn't big enough to make a statement, leave it at home.

MALOU Arsenia Roman wears bib necklace by Nicole Whitenhurst

ALEXANDRA Barba wears a bib necklace by Nicole Whitenhurst

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British brand's autumn-winter frocks heat up Rockwell outlet

DOROTHY PERKINS, THE TOP British classic brand known best to fashionistas, women-friendly take on fashion, opened its new flagship store at Power Plant Mall, Rockwell in Makati City. Its impressive fashion content is evident in pieces that are high in style and femininity which has made it one of the biggest fashion retailers in the UK, enhanced by custom release sizes range from petite to 4 to 20.

Another exciting feature of the store is the Shoe Lounge featuring On Trial, platforms and high-heeled shoes, which can be found only in the Power Plant shall branch.

The Dorothy Perkins Autumn-Winter Collection includes clothes inspired by the 90s with a very modern edge. Accessories are prominent this season, as there'll be statement heels and oversized clutches, retro ankle boots, multi-strand coiled belts, purple/pink mesh over panel handbags, slouchy bags and chunky biker boots. There are exaggerated shoulders, sexy silhouettes and desirable accessories.

One of this season's trends is London Calling, a store-inspired look using the 90s shapes with 90s styling. Stripes and iconic graphics, mid-marking and color blocking describe this collection in black, white, cobalt blue, chartreuse and purple.

Key pieces include boyfriend blazer, leggings, studded waist dress, denim shirt dress, indigo marble wash skinny jeans, studded rollup skirt, peppercorn rustic & abstract print, graphic sexuality print slouchy tee, embellished batwing tee and metallic embellishment. There are accessories such as purple chain slouch handbags, leopard-printed scarves, patriot studded sunset belt purse flat brogues.

The 90s vibe is evident in the Breakfast Club, with its color and print blocking, slouchy shapes and power shifts as well as graphic and art deco details. There are also its shades of cobalt blue, black, white and jade. Accessories with blue plastic chain satchel shoulder bags, skinny vintage chap belts, metal large detail belts and platform shoe boots.

Dorothy Perkins stores are located at Power Plant Mall, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Ermita, Glorietta 3, SM Mall of Asia and The Podium.

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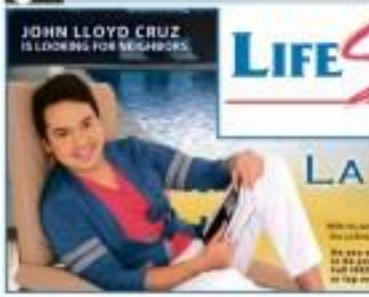

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

LA BREZA TOWER
MITHER IGNACIA QUEZON CITY
CONDOMINIUM
SM LAND
ROYALE HOMES

Jing Monis salon opens at Greenbelt 1

JING MONIS

HAIRSTYLING AND MAKEUP ARTIST JING Monis recently opened his salon at Greenbelt 1, Makati.

In a career spanning 15 years, Monis' artistry has never been truer in demand by top fashion designers, photographers, fashion and beauty editors, advertising creatives, models, celebrity endorsers.

According to Agnes Rongkon, Preview beauty editor-at-large, "Jing is always up to date with the latest in trends and techniques, and there are only a handful of artists like him who are great at both hair and makeup."

A believer in continuously upgrading one's skills and expertise, throughout his career Jing has never stopped supplementing his on-the-job experience with hands-on education, investing in training in the intricacies of hair cutting, coloring and perming techniques, as well as in print, runway, bridal, avant-garde, image training in the world's best makeup and editorials such as Christian Dior boutique in New York, Elkved Hair, The Powder Group Academy in New York, Toni & Guy salons in Sydney, Australia and Singapore, and Lancôme Institute in Hong Kong. He has also freelanced as a hair and makeup artist in those cities, as well as in Kuala Lumpur, Taiwan and Brunei.

His industry friends and clients are only too happy to see Monis' aspirations come to fruition. Says Monis: "Having my own salon used to be always just a dream for me. And I'm so happy that it's finally become a reality."

His partners at the original Propaganda salons, Jean Enrile III, Cristine del Valle, Marlyn Rivera and Jay Lusuhi, have now given him full creative and operational control. "Expect even better and more professional service, as well as more updated styles and techniques," Monis says. "Parsons told me the Schwarzkopf line of earth-friendly, organic hair products, which are safe for clients, especially those with sensitive scalps," he adds.

The newly renovated 120-sq m area on the third floor of Greenbelt 1 now sports a modern Mediterranean look. Interior designer Rene Espino mixed vintage and modern pieces accented with tropical greenery, giving the salon a relaxed yet chic feel.

This October, Pink is the new Yellow!

SpongeBob SquarePants is temporarily turning Pink this October in support of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. SpongeBob is partnering with the ICanServe Foundation to empower and encourage women with breast cancer.

In true spirit of SpongeBob SquarePants, keep the good vibes flowing no matter what and remember, it feels nice to do good!

SpongeBob PinkPants

A special limited edition line of SpongeBob PinkPants products are available at SM Department Store - Character Shop

NICKELODEON
SM

Hotel holds holiday sale

INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA (TEL 750-7000) is holding a Holiday Season Sale on Oct. 23-31, for its room and party packages. Guaranteed bookings during the three-day sale for the hotel's local conference packages for the period covering Dec. 1 (except Dec. 31) to Jan. 5, 2008, will be priced at per night rates (inclusive of VAT, service charge and government tax) of P5,800 for Executive Room, P7,500 for Club Room and P8,500 for Junior Suite. (The hotel will remit a percentage amount for each room consumed to Child Aktiv, a hotline house for sick children.)

A bonus of P1,000 restaurant gift certificate will be given for a minimum stay of five nights (check-in/check-out on departure) and a complimentary glass of wine or Carmen Salad for one at Ed y Jonthon (night). Club Joujou's buffet lunch for one (valid). Prince Albert Rotisserie brunch for one (1,000) free access for one to the New Year's Eve Countdown Party (LEB); and complimentary overnight stay in a Deluxe Room in your next visit (1,200).

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

The week belongs to Coco Chanel

Two movies try to capture the life of one of the world's most powerful legends. They succeed with her love story, but gloss over the high points of her fashion career

By Dioche V. Moral

CHANEL IS THE BUZZ THIS WEEK IN fashion, after the two-day media-invitational screening of Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel's biopic "Coco Avant Chanel" (Coco Before Chanel).

There's no word from Barbara's exclusive distributor of Chanel fragrance and cosmetics and organizer of the screenings, as to how it handled the classes for tickets (it gave away only 800 tickets, each purchased, that it first-

THE WEEK 2>

LAGERFELD HAS NO LOVE FOR TAUTOU

If Karl Lagerfeld, creative director of Chanel, had his way, he would've picked Penélope Cruz as "a better role model for the storied French house" over Audrey Tautou. Sadly, he took the French actress—face of the Chanel No. 5 and star of the film "Coco Avant Chanel"—to task after Tautou said in an interview she only wore Chanel "sometimes. This morning, I wore the cute boots." "After that, I don't have to say more," an incensed Lagerfeld told Women's Wear Daily. The designer wasn't involved in the making of the film, though press releases say he had given the some access to Chanel's archives.

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All these are accepted at The Travel Club

By Kristine Felizes Mangueray

After quitting on hold that much-awaited vacation, you're finally off to your dream destination. Your flight has been booked, hotel accommodations are ready—the only thing left to do? To shop and pay for travel essentials.

The good news is that travel convenience and good deals start begin before you leave what one use your Citi Card at The Travel Club. With the instant Citi Rewards program and their tie-up with The Travel Club, taking the trip has never been this easy. Citi Cardholders can now use their Rewards Points to pay for up to 50% of duty-free at select The Travel Club stores. This is Citibank's newest offer to Citi Classic and Gold, Visa and MasterCard and Citi Platinum Visa cardholders.

"You can save while shopping by using your Rewards Points to pay for part of your bill. It's like your Points have become a currency all on its own," said Ria Mayuga, Citibank's Vice Pres-

RIO Mayuga, Vice President of Citibank's Cards Business group

MS. ANN Santos, Vice President of Prime Group of Companies

ident for Cards Business. Cardholders are usually limited to redeeming Rewards Points for items in a catalogue. Now, Citibank has taken Rewards to a higher level, offering smart shoppers the freedom of making their store of choice and picking any item in that store as their reward. This makes the entire store their own shopping catalogue.

The revised Citi Rewards program allows cardholders to use their Rewards Points to pay up to 50% of their purchase. The balance that is charged to their Citi Card will also earn Rewards Points. Every Php50 charged to the credit card earns for the cardholder two Citi Rewards Point. Instant Citi Rewards will be available in various dining, retail shopping and buy stores across the country. The Travel Club is one of its major partners.

"When we choose our partners, we make sure that it's where our customers like to shop, so it's based on their needs and likes lifestyle," Mayuga said.

Instead of waiting for an item to be delivered to their homes, customers can go directly to any of the accredited The Travel Club branches to avail of its variety of travel essentials and most items using their Rewards Points. From duffel and luggage bags to flip-flops, The Travel Club offers new and exciting items for the ordinary traveler, all at affordable prices.

"Travel is no longer a luxury. People avail of even the low-priced holiday packages nowadays... We offer a whole new range of products for travel," Ma-Ana Santos, Vice President

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of the Prime Group of Companies that owns The Travel Club, said.

Aside from giving the option of paying for as much as 50% of the total amount of the item card-

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holders wish to purchase, Instant Citi Rewards also allows them to avail of a 10%-discount on the item's total price.

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Promo runs until the end of January 2010. Avail of Instant Citi Rewards at The Travel Club branches located in Alabang Town Center, Ayala Cebu, Festival Mall, Rattanic Mall, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3, Greenhills, Marquee Mall, Powerplant Mall, Shangri-La Plaza Mall and Trinoma among others. For more information, log on to www.citibank.com.ph. Call 995-9999.

VILLA Partners International founder and LUXLife president Cary Ferreyra, Carlos Perez-Rubio, Paul and Princess Bermudez

PLDT Smart Foundation president Butch Meily; Festival of Trees fashion show chair Emilie Cruz; PLDT Smart's Maria Pacific chair; brilliant Manny Pangilinan; PLDT's Evelyn del Rosario; Festival of Trees chair Mindy Perez-Rubio; and Princess Meejoro Ebrio

JOSEPHINE del Gallego wins $1 2,000 bid castle for "Kindig" survivors.

CRISTINA and Jaime Davila with Smart Infinity's Lyle Carvalho

Best Dressed awardees feted to dinner and fashion show

Citi PHIC president Francisco Forbes and Mondelez Philippines general manager Mark Bradford

TESSA Prieto-Valdes and PHGC president Maria Luisa Perez-Rubio

LUNCH Duncan Philippine National Bank board chair Pilar Tuviera, Pinoy Hearts Qingdao Inc Sayo and Stanford International's Rowena Lucas

AGLIPAY Hubert Vivero and Beatrice Ocampo

NACHO Samsung serenades to mother Claudia.

"FLORES de Mayo" models Patricia and Nadine Lee wear vintage terno by Martha Antonio.

"SUMMER" dancers Hamona Cruz, Anje Sojico, Maita Miranda, Micah Sollenzo and Pippi Reyes

LEO Perez-Rubio Delgado with daughters Bea Padilla and Lia Infante

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Heinrich Arnaiche

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using YSL Pluie Solidaire

I'll miss another huge reason for the 14th Festival of Trees, an annual fundraiser of the Makati Garden Club (MGC) and Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP). The event was held at The Ritz-Carlton and was attended by not only the well-heeled but also the most charitable of our town's "creatures of the night," dahlings.

By the way, pasingles, PBSC and PBSP joined forces in 1998 with one main objective. "To help the members of our fellow voluntary-ers. Since its collaboration, the Festival of Trees has raised close to P100 million for projects in Antipolo and Magsaysay Bay in terrorism torment and Basilan and Guimaras in nowhere. Leyte. It has also raised money for the Typhoon Ondoy survivors and, in 2002 and 2003," Josephine del Gallego explained to our rioting dinner that night.

This year, Hospital Issues "Undog" survivors are one of the two beneficiaries. The other beneficiaries are the six schools in the war-ravaged provinces of Basilan and Maguindanao. This sold-out charitable event raised an awesome P12 million. Bravo, pasingles.

Taking a well-deserved bow are MGC members Josephine del Gallego and Mindy Perez-Rubio, who later chaired this humanitarian affair. Just since each. These ladies have a common middle name, "fundraising," which they have successfully done not only on our country but also all over the globe. And cheers to MGC members Emilie Cruz, who received the innovative idea of a floral fashion show for the event.

"Celebrations" was this year's theme. And in spite of the recent calamitous typhoon to hit Luzon in the last few decades, all the attendees celebrated an evening of love and giving, which is definitely more important, pasingles.

This year's festival chair, Mindy Perez-Rubio, officially welcomed everyone and introduced honorary chair Manuel V. Pangilinan, as host.

PBSP chair Manny Pangilinan's inspirational speech highlighted, "You make a living of what you get. We make a life of what you give." Well said, sir.

The evening began with guests milling around the "boutique" of "mystery booth" donated by boutiques, shops, resorts and restaurants, among others. Priced at P1,000, each was exquisitely wrapped with a "mysterious" souvenir valued at more than P5,000 and "silent auction" items.

The sit-down dinner's entertainment was a floral Gabasa show hosted by Ram Damoen and Michael Williams and dressed by Idea Infante Robinson. It featured loads of popular green florists. The show's themes were "Summer," "Flores de Mayo" and "Mother's Day." The event began with Yeoh Tzu-Jeun singing "Kahit Maputi na ang Buhok Ko" while accompanying her number Claudia Yambenching on the runway, followed by students and their daughters.

The coral auction was the evening's highlight, pasingles.

"Cherubettes", a painting by Carlos Botkin was valued at P40,000. The winning bid of P36,000 was from Camily Pajarillo of Hong Kong, another painting, "Trees" by Edgar Doctor, was valued at P50,000. The winning bid of P50,000 was from Maria Luisa Perez-Rubio. And the last was totally awesome, a one-week, 10-pajeets at the ultimate-nine high-end Villa Port International Golf Resort and Spa Subdivision and five-bedroom villa. This is located at the chic St. Regis Golf Resort in Dona Dua. It was donated by brilliant mega business magnate, president of Villa Port Inter-national Golf Resorts, Inc. valued at $25,000. Winning bid of $32,000 was from daughter del Gallego, who admitted that donation is long long while Typhoon "Pepeng" was ravaging Luzon. Definitely a fantastic, electrifying way to end the evening with a super much-needed cause, pasingles.

Dressed and impressed

The first lady by the bay Marie Hotel hosted one of its most gorgeous affairs with the 2007 Best Dressed event conceptualized by Kerr Bluette and Bobby Fernandez.

The night was a celebration of an elite few, classified as our town's top fab names and "arbiters of elegance." They included the CEO of Qualibet Testing Services Corp. Philip Valdivieso; Adel Tamano; Marthoni Manucio; Judi A. Lopez; Michelle G. Hidegawa; Hectorangelo Flores Tantoco II; Blanne Cuevas; Bernard M. Calleja; Edgar Gilmonte; and Hubi Rayala Ortiz. They all wore Aaron Alonzo's Odyssey outfits and gowns, dahlings.

Guest of honor was Madame Imelda Marcos, no less, dressed by Aaron Alonzo.

The queen enjoyed a delicious gourmet lunch and paired with the world's best wines.

The awesome part of the evening was the finale, pasingles. It had gorgeous beauty and tastes, dynamic Fil-cosmo Eric Albert in a black and gold classic Angelo Godoy gown. Like a goddess, she dazzled her way on stage as the night's Hall of Famer, along with male counterpart, good looking business magnate Albert L. Somera.

At the end, Eric' mom, former top model and director, morning beauty Wanda Lozon-Albert, Dr. Inez Lopez Ralph Joseph, Irma Yulo, Deena Garcia and husband Butch Albert showered the Hall of Famer with long-stemmed roses and hugs.

Then the first began with dancing till way past their bedtime, pasingles.

Citi Alkan in seven-carting Angge Cordero

HALL of Famers. Good-looking business magnate Mikee Romero and Eric's CEO Albert

WE ARE family. Eric, Butch, Carlo, Isabella, Erica, Mikee and Marty Albert

MUNCH Lumouliou, Collins and Sabina Lopez

BEST DRESSED lady Pinky Roxas

GARLAND Sally Laing

DEENA Garcia and Cherie Severino

JEN and Raj Idnani

RALPH Wives' Ralph Joseph with Irma Bunn

BEST Dressed women for 2007 roar creations by Aaron Alonzo

AT THE POWER FLIGHT HALL SCREENING ON MONDAY: (from left) Mina and Aimee Huang, Rina Go in Chanel pearl studs from the '50s, Jacqueline Litedley Gipps and Mindy Tanseco, Dennis and Cristiano Tanseco, Marlene and Renata Enriquez

The week belongs to Coco Chanel

M&G's Francisco and Maria Kalaw

FRENCH Ambassador Thierry Borja de Mozota, Diana Jean Lopez, Jaime Laya and Zenaida Tantoco

look that threads were a gimpe. Demand far surpassed supply. Apparently, it's not just the 2.55 that set everyone on fire.)

Second Skin

"Coco Avant Chanel," directed by Anne Fontaine and starring the French actress Audrey Tautou (the new face of Chanel No. 5), is the second film of late on the fashion legend. Late last year, the inside-the-TV film "Coco Chanel," directed by Christian Duguay, starred Shirley MacLaine a Golden Globe nomination. Another film, detailing Chanel's rumored affair with, moreover, Igor Stravinsky, debuted in Cannes this year.

Why this fascination over a designer that's long gone?

While the Duguay film offers a more detailed account of Chanel's life—she died in 1971 at 88—both are Audrey Tautou's swelling undercover Chanel's contribution to fashion is we know it today.

Black-and-white is coded. Coco is another Chanel got from a still-young she used to perform as a cabaret singer's star on immediate way ahead of her time. She lived women from the constraining corsets of her era, creating loose silhouettes that allowed breathing space and movement. "Designers dragon that real women are inside these clothes," she said.

She introduced jersey, once considered a cheap fabric, into beautiful garments. "Material isn't important," she said, "what matters is the clothes."

In the late 1920s, she revived low designs in "unknown," cutting necklines low to hemlines shorter than customary, as had no other legend, Paul Poiret, who reportedly had trade-ups with Coco in the Duguay film. Coco herself preferred to sweet manners. Time was to be her best judge, to measure to this

Off-the-rack 'terno'

THE TIMELESS TIMELESS appeal finds a fresh new expression in modern times, this time in a brand ready-to-wear Filipiniana line by Raffaella at Rakuen Filipino, the store where one can find a treasure to out of all things Filipino.

The Raffaella collection celebrates the traditional butterfly-sleeved terno in indigenous fabrics like nipa, jusi and silk. Embellished with exquisite beadwork and delicate hand painting, these will make grand entrances in any gala occasion. Raffaella also has creative modern Filipino dress designs with matching bolero, pleated bodices and ball gown skirts.

Salvage Filipino stores are located at SM Makati, 101 Megamall, The Block at SM City North Edsa, 209 Block of Asia and SM City Cebu.

she will take to her style, the house Bali current line name still one of fashion's most remarkable.

Different

"It is unquestionable, you have to be different," Mackenzie, in the 70-year-old Coco, says in the film. "I've become strong from remaining stubborn despite the opposition."

Coco desired to star as a girl growing up in an orphanage. Bess resulted in remembered insecure. She also sang in a cabaret where she'd meet a wealthy military officer, Etienne Balsan, who would be her lover.

In Poiret's film, Coco appears calculating, embarking on an affair with Balsan to take advantage of his connections. In Duguay's version, she's shown as a young, vulnerable woman, honored only by her wealthy suitor. The former seems more consistent with the hallowed picture of Coco in our mind.

Moreover, some might disagree with both film representations of Coco, who valued in her love as a bohemian, an artist in the company of artists. A huge gap in Duguay's story-telling also fails to explain Coco's friendship with Pierre Reverdy, a poet she met in Montparnasse. Reverdy was a recluse who detested Capel because he was married. Capel was also married. Indeed, Capel was the love of Coco's life, the one man she could not have. Indeed, in Chanel's talent said, in fact, Reverdy looked her first, even to millions. But their affair was doomed. Capel married another woman and later died in a car crash. In her grief, Coco, in the Montana movie, says she created the little black dress for herself, not knowing it would become a hit. The Tinsley costume similarly shows Coco focusing herself in the task of building her empire after the death of Capel, the "love of my life."

Of it were, indeed, the case in her life that drove Chanel—who never married—to succeed is arguable.

The two films didn't go into the rumored periods in Coco's life after WWII, her alleged Nazi collaboration (she was said to have hooked up with a Nazi general in order to keep her business and be allowed to live at the Ritz in Paris during the war; she was never tried and convicted), and withdrawal from fashion for seven decade. Both also fail to mention that, when she died, she had already lost ownership of Chanel.

After a long, self-imposed hiatus, she returned to work at age 70 only to be panned by French critics. But "through it all," she said, "I always had my own successes," she said. Ironically, the Americans would embrace the Chanel look. The rest of the world followed, it said, then.

Sassa Jimenez's funky, glitzy collection

Club Glam is allure, glamour, sparkle

SASSA JIMENEZ'S NEW COLlection is dubbed Club Glam. The collection highlights the '80s—the period when pop music, glam metal, hard rock and New Wave rose to fame and synthesizers, keyboards and microphones were prominent musical elements in many songs.

Jimenez describes Club Glam in three words: glitz, glamour, sparkle. Made for today's party-goddess, the designs from this collection are made from embroidery and metallics and fused with classic '80s silhouettes like bold shoulders and peplums.

She also references the clubbing scene by using the splendid colors of the Underneath dress: bold (a must have to any clubbing enthusiast), gossip and black.

The result is a funky, attractive and glamorous collection of designs that subtly hint at your fashion influences while still predominantly featuring the top trends of today. Jimenez has long had a penchant for the '80s, and it is in this collection that she expresses it.

"I literally grew up in the '80s, but I was never able to fully appreciate it because I was too young. Now, I can look back on it and see it from a different perspective—and I believe there were a lot of great things that happened during that period," she explains.

Jimenez's show in Philippine Fashion Week is set Oct. 23, 7:28 p.m., at SMX Convention Center Function Room 4.

Revamped denim goes glam

GUESS SHOWCASES ITS LATEST collection at the Philippine Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2010 on Oct. 22, 5:30 p.m., at the Main Atrium of the SM Mall of Asia.

Held twice a year, the Philippine Fashion Week is now on its 12th year and will feature over 180 designers in shows happening Oct. 21-28 at the SMX Convention Center and at the SM Mall of Asia.

For its Spring/Summer 2010 collection, Guess will present three new collections: Glam Bomb, Heavenly and On The Move. Each line offers an interesting mix of silhouettes and colors for the modern Filipina.

Glam Bomb shows off revamped and modernized denims. Dynamic street style meets chic Vine, giving a masculine classic a feminine touch. Fashionistas who dress to express will love the customized approach to denim paired with minimalist garment-top designs, creating an overall look that is fresh, unique yet sophisticated.

Innocence, grace and poise define the Heavenly collection, which highlights the subtleness of light and shade evident in candy stripes, oversized satin bows, balloon skirts and silky bloomers.

It's back to the '80s with On The Move, a line influenced by innovative and outlandishly elements. The new takes on classic styling is highlighted by innovative geometric and checks prints and patterns featured on long skirts, high-waisted swimshorts, T-shirt dresses and wide ruffle dresses.

A SPLASH of '70s chic and sweet sophistication

FROM LEFT: Dibi Herrera, Nina Ma, Mark Solsona, Christian Bautista, Blackwater Body Spray and Deodorant endorser; Iona Morris, Carin Cruz, Kathleen Go and Ramon Ang

Scent of romance

CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA'S LATEST ALBUM "Romance Revisited: The Love Songs of Jose Mari Chan" was recently released with Blackwater Body Spray and Deodorant by Ever Bilena. The Blackwater Promo Pack includes two bottles of Blackwater Body Spray and one Deodorant plus One CD copy of the latest album.

During the press conference, Bautista sang his favorite songs "Tell Me You Name," "I Remember The Girl," "Beautiful Girl," all from the album.

The Blackwater Body Spray and Deodorant have four variants—Ambition, Aqua, Dynamic and Sporty.

Promo period runs while supply lasts.

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Piolo Pascual's advice on beauty—and more

Fave cologne? 'I honestly use my own line available at Bench, Pure Passion. It's fruity so it smells fresh'

Download an exclusive autographed photo of Piolo at www.inquirer.net

I WAS OFFERED A ONE-ON-one interview with Piolo Pascual in relation to a Timex Ironman event that will be held on Nov. 15 at Bonifacio Global City.

He was more than I expected him to be—warm, smart and, of course, very good-looking. Instead of focusing on the event, I ended up asking him beauty questions and then some. Here goes:

Why are you so into running?

It fits my lifestyle. Also, with running, there is results involved. I get to do it even when I'm busy. You can run anywhere as long as you have the right gear.

What gear do you use?

It's important to have the right shoes to protect the soles of your feet. Also, anything comfortable, so I can move with ease; plus my Timex watch.

What is it about the watch?

I learned to be more disciplined and focused. I have to make time for it since I have to be aware that the next day I still have work. It helps me take care of what's more important, and be proactive about it, which is my health.

PHOTO

We are giving away two Timex Men's and two Timex Women's Ironman Triathlon watches. Check out www.inquirer.net for mechanics!

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

How does she share food reviews minutes after the first bite? Her answer: "I Ovi."

Lori Lobusco signs up at the invite mention of food. The author of the popular blog Grazer Diaries (http://www.thegrazerdiaries.com) both online and in person. "Karen Club, Hamdi Place, Shinjuku, I decided to meet her," she excitedly states off when asked about her favorite haunts. "Is she quite hard and work for you—I mind..."

Scouting the menu for the current discussion, Lori takes pride in her food-obsessed moments. In one blog entry, she recalls her six-year-old daughter, Ava, getting quite annoyed over her inexplicable enthusiasm for Eastern cuisines.

Indeed, if something as simple as butternut squash could garner Instilled, what more when she's had one of her favorite desserts?

FOOD AS IT IS

Despite her unwavering passion for food, Lori likes to write as it is. No pretensions, no cool fashion-event sayings, "no adding."

Expect only the most honest, most real accounts from this experienced food writer.

Having worked as a contributor for food magazine and columnist for lifestyle magazines, it's no wonder that Lori's blog has gained quite a following among many foodies all over the world.

Writes one avid reader: "Thank you Lori for writing a real review of the restaurant. This is what I like about blogs. It's quick, honestly well written and say you can't print it."

Her reviews, mostly of the salivating kind, are actually what propelled her to become one of the recipients of the Philippine Blog Awards in 2007.

> "I have a Nokia 6700 that takes amazing pictures. It's nice to know that I can share photos online, and create albums at once so it's easier and faster to use," says Lori.

OVI AS IT IS

Food being her one true obsession, this young mom also values time well spent with her family.

To stay in touch with family members when she's on traveling assignments, Lori relies on Ovi by Nokia, a service that allows subscribers to send and receive email, share photos, store and share files online, back up contacts, download ringtones, videos and games using their mobile phones.

When asked about Ovi, Lori smiles and tells us she's actually been a longtime Nokia user, which makes subscribing to the service all the more practical. "So bloggers can keep up an old Nokia joke how Ovi user like myself is the surviving feature. I actually used to back up my contacts in a notebook!" quips Lori.

With Ovi by Nokia, Lori need not worry about losing numbers and names when changing phones, since her personal data will always be stored.

Another feature that Lori admires is the convenience it presents with Share by Ovi. Here, she can capture, upload and broadcast her photos and videos anytime from anywhere on the planet.

"I have a Nokia 6700 that takes amazing pictures. It's nice to know that I can share photos online, and create albums at once so it's easier and faster to use," says Lori.

Indeed, with Ovi, she can post food reviews in-between bites. Not only is it faster, but so far, more personal.

"I Ovi because it's a more personal alternative to the popular social networking sites. I like it because it's built around a product. I've been using ever since I started using mobile phones."

Now that she's one, expect this sweet-toothed lefties to be seen more in cyberspace.

Like Lori, you can share more of your life in real time. Visit www.ovi.com to learn how.

SEXY eyes SWEET shoulder HOT LIPS

Fresh makeup looks for the colder season

Barely-there lips look incredible when worn with beautifully defined eyes

AS THE "BER" MONTHS START rolling in, we begin to feel a slight drop in temperature, along with a shift in fashion. We suddenly have more use for our layering and leather pieces.

While we may need to wear a few more weeks before we can slip into our boots, there's no better time than now to start wearing the latest makeup trends.

Kelly Misa, Bride of the week

Black liner

Our many eyelid creases are still our go-to product when we want an edgier look. The reason calls for thick lines and a lot of smudging time to start practicing to get this look right.

An easy way to smudge your liner is by gently running a cotton bud over the line. Or make like a pro and brush a camo-color eye shadow over the liner to get that sour smudged effect. Doing this has an advantage: it sets your liner for hours.

Runway inspiration: Versace, Roberto Cavalli.

Brown eye shadow

Brown has never looked this sultry. It softly defines the eye without overpowering or looking like too much. From taupe to a more caramel hue, brown has a wide range of shades to choose from, including shimmer finishes like matte, shimmery and metallic. We are sure to have a shade that works for everybody.

The key to wearing brown shadow is to blend well. After applying the shadow, use a clean brush to distribute the shadow outward. This gives the shadow a soft effect and makes the eyes look wider.

Runway inspirations: Oscar de la Renta, Dolce Vita Fashion Week, Milan

Sheer foundation

Look like a fresh-faced beauty by creating a flawless, even complexion. In this case, less is more. A sheer, lightweight foundation or tinted moisturizer, or one with translucent loose powder is all you'll need.

If you need to hide any blemishes, first concealer only where needed before putting on powder. To make sure your foundation matches your skin tone, use the formula on your jawbone. If the foundation disappears into your skin, then you've got the perfect shade.

Runway inspirations: Ellassay, Fendi, Jil Sander

Red lip color

From scarlet to cherry, ruby to brick, red lipstick gives an many incredible options. So we've seen in the runways, there are also many ways to wear red lips...on a matte, shaggy dresses in, worn with nude edges or topped with gloss.

Runway inspirations: Lanvin, Gucci, Giorgio Armani

Nude lipstick

We have to agree. Barely-there lips look incredible when worn with beautifully defined eyes. They're sexy and understated, and most importantly, there is a shade that works for everybody.

Avoid washed-out lips by choosing a lipstick that's two shades darker than your natural skin color. For fair lips, opt for a shade with a hint of pink or a blend of shimmer, to prevent your face from disappearing.

Runway inspirations: Fendi, Jil Sander, Miu Miu

Soft blush

Adding a hint of color can further appear at your cheeks look young and fresh. Choose from shades of pink and peach, or try caramel beige tones to show off your complexion. To get the look right, use a large, fluffy brush to avoid. Brush on your cheeks. This will make blending easy and give your skin a soft finish.

Runway inspiration: Stella McCartney, Ralph Lauren

GANDANG PINAY

Chaptastic

Almarine B. Gabriel

Beware of the weather! It damages one of the most vulnerable seductive part of your face—their! Harsh weather can turn soft lips into unkissable, chapped lips that are not only visually unappealing, but very painful in most cases as well. Do you know how many people ask me about moist and chapped lips this time of the year? Virtually everyone. Well it's no secret that this unpredictable weather condition can wreak havoc on your pucker and the cure definitely is a secret either.

Lips don't have oil glands, so they can dry out easily - they appear cracked, bleed and seem to be unattractively red. Though lip glosses and lipsticks add moisture, cracked and sore lips are a must be cured first before wearing colors. To kiss dry chapped lips goodbye, try these steps:

1. To exfoliate your lips, a soft toothbrush and warm water is a safe which serves the easiest options. Gently brush your lips with your toothbrush and warm water to exfoliate the dead skin.

2. After, I found the mixtures of olive oil and salt effective. Olive oil is a natural lip moisturizer, being real safe to really good at coming off dry skin. Mix the salt and olive oil until a paste forms. Rub it on your lips and wipe off with a damp cloth.

3. Stay hydrated and don't smoke. Smoking dries the skin, especially around the mouth. It increases the incidence of chapped and peeling lips when you smoke. Even a mild dehydration can affect the moisturize level of your lips. So drink plenty of water to hydrate and soothe your lips look healthy and silky.

4. One of the most common causes of chapped lips is exposure to cold and wind. Try to develop a habit of applying lip balm before going outdoors, especially in the winter months. Make sure to use a lip balm that can protect those smooth lips from the cold sun and winds sure to seal it all through the day!

Picking the right lip balm for this weather is an extremely important move. If you suffer from extremely dry chapped lips, it is definitely helpful to use a lip balm that is enriched with natural Vitamin E. In my experience, I use my favorite, **Caroline Lip Balm**, which makes our feel so slick or sticky. You will feel softness and smoothness and it has an fruity taste as well. It's pretty much colorless and it's citrus scent adds to its soothing effect. Try it yourself! There are Strawberry, Green Apple, Watermelon and Grape flavors.

And to have lips so attractive even in this unpredictable weather, use **Caroline Lipstick** after putting on the Lip Balm for a final touch. Caroline Lipstick has a variety in flavors: Sweet Scotch, Caramel, Cotton Candy, Jelly Beans, Lollipop and Strawberry Cool.

So what weather attacks, find the softness and smoothness of your lips. It's bare-lip time for your dry chapped lips.

Do you have makeup blunders? Email me at the address at your right.

The Dangerous Side of Sexy Freego launches new collection at Philippine Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2010

Whether "sassy"? It is downright amazing something that chirps in a little right versions of Freego's Spring/Summer 2010 collection.

Freego, its street-shopping business side behind bride wedding and attendance, took to the board to conglomerate behind its romance collection, to be revealed on October 20, Thursday, at Philippine Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2010.

Brand Manager Jet Syquia has much excitement and enthusiasm for this new collection. This are featuring new types of headwear to dance the moves. Filipinos may notice some of pal. The jeans have some embellishments and models that look at most comes in today's brilliant international trends, and Freego will be responsible for portraying that subtle non-chalant fashionistas."

Their main inspiration is the classic American gangster look dating the 30s and 40s. Think Al Capone, Frank Costello, and Johnny Depp from the movie Public Enemies. Many gangsters are from the same time, aside their reputations and daring deeds that makes them very admired appearing quickly to notorious.

For women, the trend is jogging "sensible chic" Velma Kelly, portrayed by the talented Catherine Zeta-Jones in the film Chicago "sexy rather, passionate and just a little bit dangerous. Jean formations such as cuffs - pulled designs, or embellishments, sing materials such as metal studs and leather, and special masterpiece treatments reflecting the sexy side of the 30s decade.

Aiming to revolutionize the fashion establishment by introducing new jean trends to the country, Freego hopes to encourage Filipinos in every way they view their jeans, seamlessly turning it from mere wardrobe staple to an attractive, eye-catching statement piece.

Syquia says: "You can wear the most expensive jean that you have but if you are simply an accessory to a fantastic top. Don't just concentrate to your jeans, they can become the highlight of your outfit. The right pair - meaning jeans that fit your body and size perfectly, whether its petite or voluptuous curves, skinny, or loose shapes - can further give more confidence to make what ever things you put on."

In line with this, he believes that Filipinos will see Freego's new collection as a welcome departure from the typical wash of jeans that has long plagued the market and by this, he means their pair of jeans as just a "uniform" to look up their hips.

"For a long time, Filipinos have been attracted to those international jeans that have to think that my thick hips that have to be more fashionably prominent. Now that many recently begin to clearly appreciate more fashion-forward cuts and denim treatments as alternatives," Syquia relates. "Since they have now become more receptive to other styles, we want to make advantage of the opportunity and give them even more options to choose from."

He concludes: "In the end of the day, there will always be something inherently sexy about jeans, and the final purpose that they will bring this statement out, the above giving your jeans personality, and for Freego, with its boldness and design inspired wherever, basic."

And this is exactly what Filipino fashionistas can see come Philippines Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2010 as Freego proceeds its revolutionary collection that embodies the dangerous side of sexy and sets the bold trend for jeans in the seasons to come.

Piolo Pascual's advice on beauty—and more

From page E1

What products do you use?

I hardly use products. I don't think I'm really vain. When I'm in the US though, I use a lot of moisturizers since the weather is dry. Of course, when I run, I use SPF 30 sunblock. I think this for outdoor reasons.

Where's your guilty indulgence?

I get facials sometimes.

Who cleans your face?

Dapo Jabocbet has been cutting and styling my hair for years.

What do you notice when someone is ugly?

His eyes.

Do you like artificial girls?

As long as it looks natural. I'm not into artificial.

Have you tried it?

I honestly use my own face available at Beach, Pure Passion. It's fruity so it smells fresh. In fact, even on guys I prefer colognes. Nothing too strong.

Your body is in shape?

Vitamin Water and Hubba Hubba.

Who are your biggest influences lately?

Two of my strongest influences are my wife Solenn Heussaff and my manager Johnny Manahan—and my mom. Mr. M because of all he's done. I wouldn't be here. He is very hands-on, disciplined, straightforward. I learn a lot from him. His drive drew to my mom. I admire how she brought up me and the values she has instilled in me. Most importantly, by, my promise what she promises.

Who is the one that's pretty?

Hilary Duff and Angelica Jones

Among the most modern set, who do you find beautiful?

I've always admired Marian Rivera because she's elegant and her beauty is timeless. Also, Kim Loreta.

You outlaw a lot of products. What makes you choose to endorse a product?

First, I make sure I use the product. What I'm asked to endorse a product, I do my research on its ingredients, because I find a responsibility toward the consumers.

Any beauty secret you want to share?

Lots of sleep!

Want to run with Piolo? Register at Trinoma Shops, Mike Bumbo on high street, Eco street details, check out www.bugaloo.net

RUBY
Eagle Gate

Breakthroughs
in the beauty department

ADVANCEMENTS IN technology aren't limited to electronic gadgets, kitchen appliances or cars. The beauty industry is home to thousands of new innovations each year, packed with the latest technology in skincare.

Your women share their experiences with these beauty breakthroughs, and explain why they deserve a prime spot on your bathroom counter.

These products have changed the way we care for our hair, prevent wrinkles, tone the body and more.

Isabel Rocco,
Backstage Plus

"I am happy that we have hair "preservers" like Kérastase's Nectar-preserve, which I really, really love! These are some of the things I am most thankful for, because with all the harmful things we have around, it is good to know these products are very accessible and really deliver what they claim to do."

—Ruby Eagle Gate, president and CEO, Eagle Marcelle Inc.

Breakthrough Salon: Go to the Beach Fit Lab "Victorious Lounge" to have your hair and scalp diagnosed with a scanner. You'll get a full assessment of your hair's condition, plus expert advice on all your hair needs. Beach Fit Lab is at G/F Glorietta 4, beside Ascott Hotel.

"I'm a bit sensitive, using spas and getaway vacations are hard to live with one. Also, the availability of highly trained and specialized dermatologists. There's more awareness today about taking care of your body by applying only what is natural and organic. Finally, the importance, and even the necessity, of being able to tap into your inner sources in order to be able to manage a fairly stress-free life. All these will help make a better and more rebellious you, inside and out, and they warrant worldwide to the generation before us."

—Tessa Cabuilla, stage/audience/actor

"I use oil-free moisture DIFFUL overnight on my face. Basic to shine! It's all-in-one, so I never leave home without applying sunblock on my neck, arms and hands. It protects my skin from the sun and keeps it moisturized."

—Kristine Medina, Circle of Events organizer

"I have ALWAYS been a minimalist in a way and have never tried so-called 'breakthrough products and procedures.' I find being decided on your rules care of my skin through proper diet, exercise and regular use of basic skin products (facial foam wash, toner, day/night cream).

I swear by the use of expensive night creams to help my skin cells recharge while I sleep. Once a week, I use a peel-off clay masque to help remove deep-seated dirt and oil from my skin."

—Martine Bautista, solid geometric and bobacher mascara/eyeliner specialist

Try: Estée Lauder's Advanced Night Repair, an award-winning formula designed to support skin's natural repair enzymes by repairing skin during the restorative hours of sleep. It helps effectively "clean up" damage caused by smoke, pollution, toxins and chemicals.

Tips:

Pay attention to your teeth

Gray or yellow teeth age your face as much as wrinkles do. If you want to look at least 10 years younger, keep your teeth clean, in good shape, and whitened.

Drop those habits

Drinking coffee and smoking not only stain your teeth, but also have adverse effects on your youthful appearance. Smoking creates wrinkles, especially around the mouth. It also depletes the body of the vitamins and minerals it needs to function properly. Coffee is said to also contribute to weight gain. Stained teeth, wrinkles, a polluted body and weight gain are all factors that can make you look older than you actually are.

Think young

Finally, look younger by keeping abreast of the world around you, especially trends. Keep in the newest hobbies and keep your hair in a modern style. Looking younger is not only physical, it's a mental process, too!

TOBEY Teresa Cabuilla

GRACE Medina

MARINA Bautista

True red your lips can be comfortable with

The objective: find the ultimate dramatic deep-red lipstick—without the undertones

MAKEOVER 911

Kenny Subles

SINCE THE MOVIE "New Moon," the second installment in the Twilight vampire story craze, is showing soon, I have been besieged by e-mails from women age 12 to 56. The objective: find them the ultimate dramatic deep true red lipstick—without orange-pink, purple, black and brown undertones—that they can wear until the holidays.

Asian women with fine dark hair and eyes were made to double with red lipstick. If one does not feel right wearing it though, the discomfort will show through and the look is ruined.

There are reds in different textures and finishes that update your look without compromising your personality.

Matte

This is what first comes to mind when we think red lipstick. Paired with black eyeliner on the upper lid and jade black, it comes across as very classic French or Old Hollywood glamour, which suits the bold and unadorned red lipstick pretty nicely.

FASHION 21 liquid lipstick

The formula of the formula below is creamy matte for staying power, elegant finish and chapped lips protection.

Lancome Color Fever Shaine 132 is available in Harrod's only. The Satin doubles as a haircut, the texture plumps up and hydrates despite the matte finish, and the color is a true red that can be worn at daytime. Go a base here is picks up the pink/red tones of the cheeks. But avoid it if you have skin allergy sufferer problems as red pimples on the lipstick will emphasize them. It's perfect for yellow-toned and pale ladies.

Revlon Matte Lipstick has literally bled, a bright true red with out any pink, orange, brown and purple undertones. It's a color reminiscent of pin-up and Vegas girl drawings.

Also available: MAC Ruvian Red and NARS Red Lizard or B. Bird is a classic brown-based deep brick red, suitable for skin tones.

Other alternatives: NARS Mangalina Red and MAC Viva Glam

Cream

Cream gives you the best of both worlds, especially if you have very dry, chapped lips. You have the rich opaque color with moisturizing treatment to smoothen lips. Colors also appear richer and deeper due to the added shine.

Try Revlon Super Lustrous in Mulled Wine. It's the red for the vampire-obsessed: deep, dark sexy red which is not burgundy or maroon, but really red.

It's long-wearing and stays on for hours; it can only be easily removed by oil-based eye make-up removers.

Drawbacks: Not for those with dry lip problems.

Loreal Infallible Lipstick in 501 Invincible Red is the exact color of red foil wrappers and glossy ribbons during the holidays.

The case resembles a silver lighter in size and shape, with the color on one side and the clear moisturizing balm on the other. There are other shades, but this is the best-selling red.

Tips: Apply color to clean lips. Dab afterward just enough (for lip liner) to fill minute or so. Even pairing lips together is a no-no as lipstick will crack and feather. The balm is a tad, come relief throughout the day.

Gloss/liner

The natural color of your lips will still show through, but the effect is as if you drank Cherry Iced, and/or ate Lipps candy.

Fashion 21 Liquid Lipstick's shades 5 (cherry red) and 6 (blush red tone) are highly recommended.

The brush applicator is the perfect size and stiffness as it deposits the right amount of color. It's easy to maneuver so as to cover the entire lip without creating a mess.

Maybelline Water Shine Pure in 913 is a lip gloss with very buildable coverage. Depending on your body chemistry and lip undertone, the color can range from a sheer watermelon red to strawberry juice.

E-mail: kimpadua@yahoo.com

THE salon offers bridal packages.

Angelo Justin salon opens in QC

GRAND OPEN ANGELO JUSTIN IS now open in Timog, Quezon City.

The hip and trendy salon features a team of seasoned artists.

The main concept of the salon is to provide a hassle-free atmosphere especially for working divas. The two-floor structure is open seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays and holidays.

The salon offers haircuts, hair color, makeup, milk treatments, hair rebond and bridal packages, among others.

Prices vary depending on the choice of stylist.

Every Monday, divas in Quezon City can enjoy the services of the artist himself, Angelo Justin.

Justin joins competitions both here and abroad and attends various workshops to update his styles.

Grand Gen Angelo Justin is located at 83 Timog Ave., Quezon City. Call 413-6353/ 0928-5251351.

ONE OF Justin's own hairstyles.

ANGELO Justin with Joey Mead

SUGARHOUSE UNVEILS

Sweet Creations

with CALIFORNIA TABLE GRAPES

Culinary

Sun defense for face

ELIZABETH ARDEN'S EIGHT HOUR CREAM Sun Defense for Face SPF 50 Sunscreen has been endorsed by the Skin Cancer Foundation Seal of Recommendation Program.

This lightweight, oil-free lotion helps protect skin from sun exposure while hydrating for up to eight hours. The paraben free SPF 50 helps shield skin from harmful UVA/UVB rays that can cause sunburn, surface skin cell damage and premature signs of aging.

Available at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La and Alabang Town Center.

Hair care line

Schwarzkopf's Essensity is a full-range hair care line. Its shampoos and conditioners contain antioxidants like cranberry, acai, sea kelp, goji berry, eucalyptus and calendula.

Its styling collection is infused with rain tree bark, tapioca, red aloe leaf and sesame.

The color line has natural beeswax and extract that protects against environmental aggressors.

Acne control kit

Clean & Clear Acne Clear Acne Control Kit has four acne-fighting products containing salicylic acid which help treat acne. The products include a cleanser, toner, medicated gel and moisturizer at Watsons stores.

Vanity Basket

Avon jewels

Avon fashions pin, 364-2900/others. Grand Jewels Mel Pentagon Gemstone Amethyst, Gemstone Jade with Marquis CZ, Gemstone Cashmere Cat Topaz, Gemstone Pear-with-Pavéed CZ, Genuine Yellow-Cut Ruby and Filigree with Genuine Aquamarine Center.

Escada fragrance

Escada Desire Me is infused with aldehydes, living Clementine, Chiang Mai orchids, honeysuckle, oriental vanilla, tiramisu and Australian sandalwood. Exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation and is available in leading department stores.

SELECTA KIDS UNIVERSE AT THE SM MALL OF ASIA

The Ultimate Kiddie Destination

Kids now have their own special place at the SM Mall of Asia, a place dedicated to pure fun, enjoyment, and education. Opening soon is the Selecta Kids Universe, where they can explore their imagination and spend hours at Mount Ice at the Cosmic Kidz space gym, take time out for some games, ride on the Selecta Kids Universe ferris wheel, or watch a movie at the Cinema.

Located in the ground floor of the South Park Building at the SM Mall of Asia, the Selecta Kids Universe brings together two iconic Philippine brands that have long been known for bringing happiness to generations of families. As leaders in their respective fields – Office Warehouse for stationery and Selecta Ice cream – the company together with their teams of experts in create an innovative place that will give kids an unforgettable experience.

The Selecta Kids Universe is a one-of-its-kind entertainment destination for kids that brings together fun and entertainment at the SM Mall of Asia, the premiere destination mall in the Asia Pacific region.

Cosmic Kidz World Found the Cosmic Kidz Playground

The Selecta Kids Universe revolves around Cosmic Kidz, the country's biggest playground. This amazing space gym provides kids with creative, fun-filled activities. Here they will also find Mount Ice. It is designed with an outer space vibe with a challenging maze of capsules, orbital tunnels, and other play-stuff designed to excite children's minds, develop their physical strengths, and provide mental skills.

They can play among astronauts in the Space Capsules, and explore the universe in the Rocket Climber. Air Fun-Speed Slide, and Rainbow Web. There's even more fun on their take the challenges of the Rocking Ship, Adventure Wedge, Spider Tower, Foam Pinball, and Coin Crater.

Younger kids have specially designed areas that maximize effective learning through music, learning, and cognitive corners at the Crawlpad Experience Pit area. Here, Crawlpad's Rainbow Crawly ID Developmental Cycle develops a child's natural curiosity through stimulation and challenge.

For the sheer rush of the playground every you – the Selecta Kids Universe is carefully designed to follow safety standards to avoid play related accidents! Taking off and crashing down is fun and safe for kiddie enthusiasts.

This cosmic kidz is the universe's biggest playground and indoor high adventure park with imaginative activities for all levels of learning and play.

The Selecta Kids Universe is located in the ground floor level of the South Park Building at SM Mall of Asia.

Special Cosmic Kidz Events

The Selecta Kids Universe also has special events which will feature fun-filled kids:

Kiddie Disco Party

Kids can enjoy a disco party with their friends and have fun dancing to the latest hits. Parents can leave their kids in the capable hands of the Selecta Kids Universe staff and have a night out.

Birthday Parties

Kids can celebrate their birthday parties in the Selecta Kids Universe. Parents can choose from a variety of packages that will suit their budget and their kids' preferences.

Cosmic Kidz Graduation

Kids can graduate from the Cosmic Kidz Playground and receive their diploma and graduation cap.

Cosmic Kidz Summer Camp

Kids can enjoy the summer with a variety of activities that will keep them busy and entertained.

Cosmic Kidz Christmas Party

Kids can celebrate the Christmas season with their friends and have fun with Santa Claus.

Cosmic Kidz Halloween Party

Kids can dress up in their favorite costumes and have fun with their friends.

Cosmic Kidz Easter Egg Hunt

Kids can enjoy the Easter season with their friends and have fun hunting for Easter eggs.

Cosmic Kidz Valentine's Day

Kids can celebrate Valentine's Day with their friends and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Mother's Day

Kids can celebrate Mother's Day with their mothers and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Father's Day

Kids can celebrate Father's Day with their fathers and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Grandparents' Day

Kids can celebrate Grandparents' Day with their grandparents and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Teacher's Day

Kids can celebrate Teacher's Day with their teachers and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Nurses' Day

Kids can celebrate Nurses' Day with their nurses and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Doctors' Day

Kids can celebrate Doctors' Day with their doctors and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Firemen's Day

Kids can celebrate Firemen's Day with their firemen and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Policemen's Day

Kids can celebrate Policemen's Day with their policemen and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Soldiers' Day

Kids can celebrate Soldiers' Day with their soldiers and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Sailors' Day

Kids can celebrate Sailors' Day with their sailors and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Airmen's Day

Kids can celebrate Airmen's Day with their airmen and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Marines' Day

Kids can celebrate Marines' Day with their marines and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Coast Guard's Day

Kids can celebrate Coast Guard's Day with their coast guard and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Navy's Day

Kids can celebrate Navy's Day with their navy and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Air Force's Day

Kids can celebrate Air Force's Day with their air force and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Army's Day

Kids can celebrate Army's Day with their army and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Police's Day

Kids can celebrate Police's Day with their police and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Fire's Day

Kids can celebrate Fire's Day with their fire and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Ambulance's Day

Kids can celebrate Ambulance's Day with their ambulance and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Hospital's Day

Kids can celebrate Hospital's Day with their hospital and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Clinic's Day

Kids can celebrate Clinic's Day with their clinic and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Pharmacy's Day

Kids can celebrate Pharmacy's Day with their pharmacy and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Dentist's Day

Kids can celebrate Dentist's Day with their dentist and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Optometrist's Day

Kids can celebrate Optometrist's Day with their optometrist and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Veterinarian's Day

Kids can celebrate Veterinarian's Day with their veterinarian and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Pet Shop's Day

Kids can celebrate Pet Shop's Day with their pet shop and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Aquarium's Day

Kids can celebrate Aquarium's Day with their aquarium and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Zoo's Day

Kids can celebrate Zoo's Day with their zoo and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Museum's Day

Kids can celebrate Museum's Day with their museum and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Library's Day

Kids can celebrate Library's Day with their library and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Bookstore's Day

Kids can celebrate Bookstore's Day with their bookstore and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Toy Store's Day

Kids can celebrate Toy Store's Day with their toy store and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Clothing Store's Day

Kids can celebrate Clothing Store's Day with their clothing store and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Shoe Store's Day

Kids can celebrate Shoe Store's Day with their shoe store and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Jewelry Store's Day

Kids can celebrate Jewelry Store's Day with their jewelry store and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Perfume Store's Day

Kids can celebrate Perfume Store's Day with their perfume store and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Cosmetics Store's Day

Kids can celebrate Cosmetics Store's Day with their cosmetics store and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Hair Salon's Day

Kids can celebrate Hair Salon's Day with their hair salon and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Barber Shop's Day

Kids can celebrate Barber Shop's Day with their barber shop and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Spa's Day

Kids can celebrate Spa's Day with their spa and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Gym's Day

Kids can celebrate Gym's Day with their gym and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Swimming Pool's Day

Kids can celebrate Swimming Pool's Day with their swimming pool and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Tennis Court's Day

Kids can celebrate Tennis Court's Day with their tennis court and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Basketball Court's Day

Kids can celebrate Basketball Court's Day with their basketball court and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Volleyball Court's Day

Kids can celebrate Volleyball Court's Day with their volleyball court and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Soccer Field's Day

Kids can celebrate Soccer Field's Day with their soccer field and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Golf Course's Day

Kids can celebrate Golf Course's Day with their golf course and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Bowling Alley's Day

Kids can celebrate Bowling Alley's Day with their bowling alley and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Arcade's Day

Kids can celebrate Arcade's Day with their arcade and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Movie Theater's Day

Kids can celebrate Movie Theater's Day with their movie theater and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Theme Park's Day

Kids can celebrate Theme Park's Day with their theme park and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Amusement Park's Day

Kids can celebrate Amusement Park's Day with their amusement park and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Water Park's Day

Kids can celebrate Water Park's Day with their water park and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Beach's Day

Kids can celebrate Beach's Day with their beach and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Mountain's Day

Kids can celebrate Mountain's Day with their mountain and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Forest's Day

Kids can celebrate Forest's Day with their forest and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Desert's Day

Kids can celebrate Desert's Day with their desert and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Island's Day

Kids can celebrate Island's Day with their island and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Continent's Day

Kids can celebrate Continent's Day with their continent and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Country's Day

Kids can celebrate Country's Day with their country and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz City's Day

Kids can celebrate City's Day with their city and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Town's Day

Kids can celebrate Town's Day with their town and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Village's Day

Kids can celebrate Village's Day with their village and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Neighborhood's Day

Kids can celebrate Neighborhood's Day with their neighborhood and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Street's Day

Kids can celebrate Street's Day with their street and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Avenue's Day

Kids can celebrate Avenue's Day with their avenue and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Boulevard's Day

Kids can celebrate Boulevard's Day with their boulevard and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Road's Day

Kids can celebrate Road's Day with their road and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Highway's Day

Kids can celebrate Highway's Day with their highway and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Bridge's Day

Kids can celebrate Bridge's Day with their bridge and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Tunnel's Day

Kids can celebrate Tunnel's Day with their tunnel and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Overpass's Day

Kids can celebrate Overpass's Day with their overpass and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Underpass's Day

Kids can celebrate Underpass's Day with their underpass and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Roundabout's Day

Kids can celebrate Roundabout's Day with their roundabout and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Intersection's Day

Kids can celebrate Intersection's Day with their intersection and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Traffic Light's Day

Kids can celebrate Traffic Light's Day with their traffic light and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Stop Sign's Day

Kids can celebrate Stop Sign's Day with their stop sign and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Yield Sign's Day

Kids can celebrate Yield Sign's Day with their yield sign and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz No Entry Sign's Day

Kids can celebrate No Entry Sign's Day with their no entry sign and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz One Way Sign's Day

Kids can celebrate One Way Sign's Day with their one way sign and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Two Way Sign's Day

Kids can celebrate Two Way Sign's Day with their two way sign and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Roundabout Sign's Day

Kids can celebrate Roundabout Sign's Day with their roundabout sign and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Intersection Sign's Day

Kids can celebrate Intersection Sign's Day with their intersection sign and have fun with their favorite characters.

Cosmic Kidz Traffic Light Sign's Day

Kids can celebrate Traffic Light Sign's Day with their traffic light sign

LIVING Stars

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

Edna Emerson G. Velarde

Ronnie Ricketts is new Optical Media Board chair

ACTOR Ronnie Ricketts has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Optical Media Board. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita announced on Wednesday. He replaced Edu Manzano, who resigned from the post two months ago following reports that he is planning to run in next year's elections. Ricketts reportedly met with some industry leaders early this month to discuss his plans for the anti-piracy agency.

Marinel R. Cruz

DID YOU KNOW...

At the Cinemas

Ayala Malls

GLORIETTA 4

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" A SALUTARY ADMONISHMENT."

At the Malls

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GREENBELT

Extremaniacs Live: Relieve the Rock 'n Roll of the 80's, October 13, Greenbelt 3 Park

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

Town Night featuring Rico Blanco
October 24, 6:00pm, Restaurant Row

AYALA CENTER CEBU

Pink Concert featuring Avril® Beatsdeluxe, Alex Stegeardo, Cheryn Paredes, Nina, MYMP, Reuben Poon & Silk
October 23, 2:00pm, Activity Center

MARKET! MARKET!

Foreign Cinema and Entertainment Expo
October 23 - 2:00pm, Activity Center

ONSTAGE

Jack And Tim Reversible
August 6 - December 10, 2009
For more details, please call Rea at 887-0710

Ayala Malls

Halloween Treats

Halloween Party Festival — Metro Party Treats

Treat or Treat at Glorietta — Jack O Lantern Pinata Scatter

GLORIETTA 4 • GREENBELT 3 • ALABANG TOWN CENTER • MARKET! MARKET! • TRINOMA • AYALA CENTER CEBU • MARQUEE

Julie wows her fellow b

LOS ANGELES — Even stars get star-struck.

It happened Monday to Zoe Saldana, Kate Holmes and Renee Zellweger at Elle magazine's Women in Hollywood tribute, where they were honored alongside legendary actress Julie Andrews.

Saldana burst into song — "A Spoonful of Sugar" — at the thought of meeting the "Mary Poppins" star. Zellweger said, "I just don't want to fall or say dumb things when we meet."

Holmes said she herself couldn't wait. "She is amazing. We have 'Mary Poppins' and 'Sound Of Music' playing a lot in our house right now."

Longtime friend Carol Burnett shared a different side of the ensemble star during a private dinner at the Four Seasons hotel. "Not only is Julie such a great actress, such a great singer, such a beautiful person and all... she is also very beardy."

The comedian told a story of how Lady Bird Johnson once caught her and Andrews kissing. Andrews had planned to play a trick on director Mike Nichols when the former first lady opened them.

True!

"Aren't you Carol Burnett?" Bird recalled Johnson asking. "I said 'Yes,' and this how's Nini's Popsicle.'"

"Absolutely true story," Andrews said. "She let bigs out the worst in me."

Andrews recognized her fel- low ...

Hot diggidy-dog!

GELLI de Belen, wife to fellow actor Ami Rivera, stars in Jesus and Julie, and co-host of "Sic," a long-running daily TV talk show, season by family togetherness and balanced meals.

The first, for her, covers playtime and shared interests; and the second, she insists, can come in the form of hookups, which have been getting a lot of bad press lately. She gets in quit the brand though, and she endorses Sweet because, she explains, "It has food and chicken; not pork" and "the kids... were also into ketups."

WHO'S THAT GIRL!

Could it be... ? Fifteen years away from the limelight and then, pop diva ... singer album, "It's Time for Utopia," and started playing a few dates in Europe and ... Philippines. The 50-year-old native of Poland, ripped to the core of the finest ... performed Wednesday night at the Resorts Enthusiasm. Here she playfully pos ... showing her 'real' cougar self.

EXCLUSIVE

NOW SHOWING 2ND WEEK AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS

From the Director of "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days" & "Just My Luck"

MICHAEL VARTAN · ELIZABETH DREYFUSS

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OPENS OCTOBER 28 AT AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

...ig stars

...hanovers, including Jo... Moore, Kristy Blunt, ...e Wright Penn and racing ...ior Bonnie Thunderstruck. ...thanked the "giants" with ...m she worked during more ...50 years in Hollywood. ...e shared her experiences ...Walt Disney and told of ...he took her on her "very ...ever trip to Disneyland." ...talked about working with ...ers and Hanoverians and ...d Hitchcock and "those de... ...n bruising men" such as ...Sowinski and Omar Sharif. ...epeaks of working with her ...band, director Blake Ed... ...le, and how once when he ...directing her during a love ...e, he told her, "That was ...e film, darling, but I know ...can do it better." - AP

RACHEL Ann Go (L) and Richard Poon are two of the best concert artists for Tiara Hangout, president of Lot's Face Jr. who invited them to the salon's recent 19th anniversary party at the Big Dome.

'Scream
17 in LA

RED CARPET

CLAIRE de la Fuente in a hackney Leonardo Cojuangco

Classics for Claire

QUILTED silver bag is a vintage find.

SWAROVSKI-crystal collection

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Ryan Lim

NOW THAT'S A CLOSET

Inkblots reappear in Claire de la Fuente admits she leans towards the classics, heirloom-wise.

"Then go out of style," the poison out. Just like the music and career of this diva who's experiencing a resurgence with a string of concerts and CDs lined up.

She has a forthcoming concert with Jose Mari Chan on Nov. 15 and 17 and just recently launched her "repackaged" CD, "The Christmas Album," which includes "The Christmas Song," here duet with US singer (and reinvented soloist) Michael Bolton.

Claire is always on the go, making her own manicure and a bus company. "I need clothes and accessories that work as hard as I do," she says, summing up her style sense as "elegant and versatile."

AMONG her favorite fragrances are by Bvlgari and Calvin Klein.

WALK-IN closet serves as showcase for her shoe and bag collection.

Dresses

"I used to buy clothes off-the-rack. Now I don't have the time [to shop]. I rely on designers to make my clothes."

A tip for busy working women like herself: "Always keep several spare outfits in the car. If there's a last-minute invitation for an evening event, you can easily slip into a formal outfit. I rely on classic cuts that go from day to night with the addition of a few accessories."

Gowns

She's being packaged by Viva Entertainment as a classy diva. In her closet are several gowns by Rajo Laurel and Paul Cabral, and favorite designer Leonard Co.

"Leonard captures my personality very well. I was deprived on him for glamorous, gung-ho red carpet gowns. Most of the gowns that I wear in concerts and on my CD covers are by Leonard."

Bags

She's an IV baby. "Louis Vuitton designs are timeless. They're a good investment, [with] classic pieces that you can pass on to your children."

Her walk-in closet, a showroom for her many collections, is filled with IVs—from Classic Monogram to Suhitler and Epi Leather. "But I travel with Coach bags, too."

She finds glittery purses for formal affairs in bazaars and vintage stores here and abroad.

Shoes

She's a size 8, but has no trouble finding the perfect pair in upscale shoe stores.

Make that very upscale: Giuseppe Zanotti, Versace, Stuart Weitzman, Jimmy Choo, Gucci, Manolo Blahnik, Brando. These days, she's partial to Brando, but her Manolo Blahnik Mary Janes are all-time faves.

Scents, cosmetics

She has a glass armoire filled with bottles of perfume. She adores the Escada line. "But I also find the exotic Calvin Klein Kon de Roberto collection heavenly."

As for cosmetics, she swears by Makeup For Ever.

Crystals, ceramics

Claire collects ceramic washbasins and pitchers from all over Europe, porcelain plates from Italy and Greece and crystal vases from Poland.

Newest additions to her collectibles are Cotton Villoid white porcelain figurines with Swarovski crystals.

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 JULIE & JULIA
2 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
3 JOHN HUGHES FILMFEST
4 G-FORCE
RED CLIFF
HURT LOCKER
JOHN HUGHES FILM FESTIVAL

POWER PLANT CINEMA

S+A LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL
1 THE HUNT LOCKER
2 HALLOWEEN II
3 INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
4 G-FORCE
5 THE ECHO
6 CARAVAN
7 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
8 JULIE & JULIA
9 RED CLIFF
10 THE HUNT LOCKER

Also Erenia G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

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'Independencia' wins in Chile

RAFA MARTIN'S "INDEPENDENCIA" WON the Special Jury and Critics' Prizes in the 16th Valdivia International Film Festival in Chile (Oct. 15 to 20), according to the film's website. The historical drama also won top prize in the All-Asian section of the Bangkok (int'l) film fest.

Reported from Diego Jr.

CHEER FACTOR

Uh, you talking to Paul Schrader?

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SCREENWRITER-DIRECTOR PAUL SCHRADER hates the word "scriptwriting."

As far as he's concerned, he's in the business of "storytelling," he told the crowd that gathered in Cinema 7 of Market Market! on Tuesday for the master class organized by Cinemalaya's Tikoy Aguiluz.

"Storytelling," he explained in his hovering voice, "is a lot like exorcism... exorcism."

Not surprisingly, he also directed the acclaimed production, "Exorcism: A Prequel to the Exorcist," which stars Hilary Crawford.

Metaphors

More famously however, Schrader wrote Martin Scorsese's "Taxi Driver," "Raging Bull," and "The Last Temptation of Christ." He likewise penned and directed "Hardcore" and "Auto-matters-Zgado," among others.

A filmmaker's goal, he said, should be "to find a device that will make your story real, interesting and original."

That device, more often than not, can be mined in the author's emotional turmoil. "Movies are metaphors for personal predicaments," he noted.

A fine example of this adage is the 1976 film "Taxi Driver."

Schrader recounted that he had his rock bottom... after years as a student (at the University of California) in Los Angeles and American Film Institute) and as a film critic (under the tutelage of the influential Pauline Kael).

"I was drifting around and living in my car in LA," he recalled. "Or sometimes I would sleep in the 24-hour porn theater, Pussycat Cinemas, along Santa Monica Boulevard."

Surrounded by alien and suicidal thoughts, he rescued Travis Bickle, the disturbed loner portrayed by Robert De Niro in "Taxi Driver."

"I knew (Travis) was a metaphor for loneliness. A taxi driver is a guy stuck in a steel coffin... he's surrounded by people, but is absolutely alone at the same time."

Although his most popular screenplays are those directed by Scorsese, he wouldn't do

HE'D rather be called a screenwriter

For the man behind 'Taxi Driver,' scriptwriting is 'a lot like exorcism'

LIFE, YOUTH 2

Jackson was excited, ready for concerts

LONDON—MICHAEL JACKSON was "excited" about performing a run of 50 live concerts in London for which he was rehearsing just before his sudden death in June, the director of a new movie about the "King of Pop" said on Tuesday.

In the last few days of his life Jackson also appeared to have "gone into another gear" and showed no signs of drug dependency, Kenny Ortega told Reuters/Australian interviews.

"That is it," a feature-length film built around footage of the final Los Angeles rehearsals before Jackson's death on June 25 at age 50, has thrusted around the world on Oct. 28 and looks set to be one of the biggest movies of the year.

"He was excited, looking forward to 50, happy, pleased with what we had accomplished up until that moment and looking forward to finishing up the rehearsals in Los Angeles and moving on to London," Ortega said.

"Those last few nights of rehearsals it seemed like he'll gone into another gear, and everyone really believed that we were about to witness an something that was going to be rather remarkable," asked whether Jackson had shown any signs of dependency on drugs, Ortega replied: "No." Jackson died of a prescription drug overdose, and his death triggered heated speculation about his physical state at the time and what drugs he may have taken.

Ortega said the tellest shows were seen by the singer as his

Reuters

"KING of Pop" knew the series was to be his swan song.

WITH Andrea Soza, Rufa Mae's leading man in the new GMA 7 teleserbia, "Mudo-Mudo"

Rufa Mae, a working bride

Groom-to-be is not jealous, she says, and understands that she can't quit the biz

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ALTHOUGH RUFA MAE QUINTO IS ALL set to settle down, she's not keen on quitting the biz.

She's been flashing an engagement ring (here, just few days, but the inside her future groom isn't pressuring her to stop working.

"He knows I'll get bored," she tells Inquirer.com.

First serious kiss

In the romantic comedy, she plays obsessed fan to children's Adamsonia actor. "For the first time, I'll have a serious kissing scene," she quips.

Fortunately her fiancé (whose identity she has yet to make public) isn't the jealous type.

"He's a professional. He understands how it's

GARFIELD By Jim Davis

A LIFAH By Jo Abrera

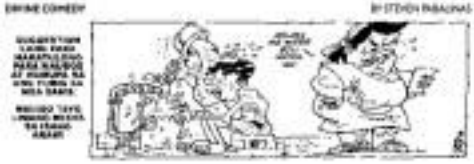
PUGAD BABOY By Pol Junior

DICK TRACY

LOKMANOTS By Elizabeth Chongco

JAMES BOND

ERVINE COMEDY By Steven Pabalinas



BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott

TULOOK By Mark Col

BEH By Daniel Shelton

ATOMIC AND WEEDY By Vin Garcellano

KIBO MACHINE By Mahid Abrera

HOROSCOPE

By Francis Drake

ARIES (March 21 to April 20). This is a good day to do whatever you have been putting off. Be inspired to do such a way that your future will improve. (Who doesn't want a brighter future?) You might have to make a few things that others would want.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20). You enthusiasm can do something today to improve your communication skills and mental flexibility. Be more curious, how do you think others would see you in their minds? Look at things from perspectives.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20). Don't hesitate to introduce changes or improvements or reforms of work today. Similarly, you might think of ways to improve your health. Just be open to these ideas.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22). Today, you'll see today's ways of dealing with romantic partners, sports team members, friends and lovers and children. Why not improve these relationships? Why not today learn to live the best lives you can be?

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22). Do whatever you can to improve your relationships, plumbing and bathrooms at home. Do matter whatever something. Do what you can even somewhat. Do not do what you are about something.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22). You're extremely persuasive today! This is a great day to teach, market, sell, act or influence anyone about anything.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22). You might see a new side for a prospective one already seen. Perhaps that colleague could be a friend being? Invest your resources wisely!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21). You're extremely persuasive appearance today or improve your relationships with partners and close friends. Socialize your image and your personality.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). Your powers of persuasion are considerable today. Because of this, you will make good impression. If you can any kind of research today, start now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19). Talk to others about your goals, plans and dreams for the future. You'll be surprised by how helpful someone's input is.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18). You have a chance to modify or improve your relationships with an authority figure today. Your boss, teacher or parent or a VIP in your life. Way and.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20). The study of philosophy, religion, politics and metaphysical ideas might intrigue you today. In fact, you might be deeply impressed by someone's ideas. You might even meet a powerful teacher.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

DOWN

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Lewis

	4			2		8		9
3				1				8
2				4				9
	8		5	6	9		2	
5				2				1
6				3				2
	2		9		7		4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	2	3	8	6	1	9	7	5
9	7	6	4	5	3	1	8	2
1	8	5	2	7	9	3	6	4
3	9	7	6	1	2	5	4	8
8	4	1	3	9	7	6	2	9
5	6	2	5	9	4	7	3	1
7	3	8	9	4	5	2	1	6
2	5	4	1	3	6	8	9	7
6	1	9	7	2	8	4	5	3

When stars behave really badly

SHOW BIZ CELEBRITIES ARE SUPPOSED to be not just talented and entertaining, but also good role models for the viewing public, especially the impressionable youth. Why so? Why can't stars just live their lives as they please, and the public be damned? Because extensive media exposure, which celebrities enjoy, makes every single word and dictum everything they do, making it extremely unruly and "discovering" of intentions.

Nestor U. Jarin

As we all know, however, the ethical requirement for stars to always be in their best behavior due to the good example they should set is practiced more in the breach than the observance. Of late some stars have shocked the public with their less than exemplary behavior.

The big villain these days is Kanye West, who raised an "Taylor Swift's parade when he missed her acceptance speech at otherwise glittering awards this. West expressed his gratitude for Beyonce Knowles at Swift's expense, earning the resulting ire of many interviewers.

Poll Nirsi's gaffe affect his career? The jury is still out on that one, but just a few days ago, Lady Gaga announced that she was canceling her planned concert tour with Kanye.

Gags over West

Mr. didn't come right out and say it, but some show biz observers suspect that Lady Gaga is no longer going gaga over West, because he shocked a sister, even if it was in favor of another artist. If more female stars think Kanye West is the joke, his career could go—fast!

The other big celebrity ego that was is David Letterman. Most of the time, the veteran talk show host delights viewers with his usual, acerbic jokes. So this month, Letterman shocked his viewers when he revealed that he had become the victim of an extortion attempt—to the hefty tune of $2 million. Shhh, there's more.

It appears that the extortion artist, a producer threatened to expose the TV host's affairs with some of his female employees if Letterman didn't pay him a lot of hush money. Alarmed, the TV host went to the cops for help, they set up a sting operation and the extortionist was caught. Trouble is, Letterman now had to own up to his acts of infidelity at the workplace, thus placing his marriage—and his popularity—in jeopardy.

Jon Gosselin and David Letterman should probably get together

Some people think that Letterman's affairs were merely par for the celebrity course, but others feel that Stanly Stone had crossed the line because he took advantage of his "power" over his female co-workers.

But, is this ethical gaffe bad enough to turn off some fans, or even threaten the extremely rich of his decades-long talk show? That would be such a pity, especially at this time when his show's ratings are up, thanks to the poor showings of his new competitor, Conan O'Brien.

Other celebrities who've been behaving really badly lately of late include Norman Hukmuk, who's finally caught for a crime he committed decades ago, and Jon Gosselin, the erstwhile star of "Jon and Kate Plus Eight," who's been nipped for fooling around and breaking up his huge family. Perhaps he and David Letterman should get together and nobly compare notes!

Uh, you talking...

From page B1

actor first partnership as a "frequent collaboration."

"We never really worked in the same room together," he said. "I did something that worked, but in the end, the scenes belonged to Scorsese. Then I [once] was probably twice my than him. 'Last Temptation' was more him than me. And 'Raging Bull' was more Jo Mio than either of us. It's a different process every time."

He volunteered, "Although it has been a while since we last worked together, I'll have dinner with Scorsese to a week or two."

Curious about BP

In spite of the devastation caused by the oil spill floods, he still pushed through with his first visit to the Philippines. "I've never been here. I've visited other parts of Asia ... Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong ... I was really curious."

After Manila, he's proceeding to Mumbai and Mexico. In Mexico, he is doing an action film called "The Jesuit." In Mumbai, he is developing a project, a collaboration between Hollywood and Bollywood. Also, according to Bill Broyles, is called "Extreme City."

He also attended Cannes to present his latest work, "Adam Resurrected"—a film about survival and the human spirit, he said.

Is there a chance his Manila detour will inspire him to not be a movie about the anxiety?

"If you asked me the same question about Mumbai last year, I would have laughed," he said. "But now I'm working on a film set in India. That's what would eliminate all doubt."

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GALLERIA	
1 JULIE & JULIA	6 G-FORCE (Digital 3D) / SURROGATES
2 RED CLIFF	7 ARUSH
3 500 DAYS OF SUMMER	8 ANG LARO NG BUHAY NI JUAN
4 THE HURT LOCKER	9 THE ECHO
5 HALLOWEEN 2	10 CARRIERS

ERMITA	
1 CARRIERS	4 HALLOWEEN 2
2 500 DAYS OF SUMMER	5 THE ECHO
3 THE HURT LOCKER	6 RED CLIFF

METRO EAST	
1 HALLOWEEN 2	5 RED CLIFF
2 THE HURT LOCKER	6 THE ULU TRUTH / NOT FORGOTTEN
3 500 DAYS OF SUMMER	7 THE ECHO
4 CARRIERS	8 IN MY LIFE

NOVALICHES	PIONEER
1 HALLOWEEN 2	1 THE HURT LOCKER
2 ARUSH	2 HALLOWEEN 2
3 THE ECHO	3 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
4 RED CLIFF	4 CARRIERS

STA. ROSA	LIPA
1 THE TIME'S TRAVELER'S WIFE	1 THE FINAL DESTINATION
2 BOOK OF BLOOD	2 BOOK OF BLOOD
3 ECHO	3 HORSEMEN
4 IN MY LIFE	4 THE TIME'S TRAVELER'S WIFE

BASMARINAS	IMUS
1 BOOK OF BLOOD	1 RED CLIFF
2 IN MY LIFE	2 IN MY LIFE
3 THE ECHO	3 BOOK OF BLOOD
4 RED CLIFF	4 THE ECHO

STAKMILLS	
1 IN MY LIFE	4 ECHELON CONSPIRACY
2 THE GAMER	5 BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT
3 THE ECHO	6 THE FINAL DESTINATION

ANGELES	TACLOBAN
1 THE FINAL DESTINATION	1 HORSEMEN
2 THE HAUNTED	2 SORORITY ROW
3 THE ECHO	3 BOOK OF BLOOD
4 BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT	

BACOLOD	ILOILO
1 BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT	1 PANDORUM
2 ANG LARO SA BUHAY NI JUAN	2 FAME
3 NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH	3 G-FORCE
4 SORORITY ROW	4 SORORITY ROW
5 THE FINAL DESTINATION	5 THE FINAL DESTINATION
6 PANGASAN	6 ANG LARO SA BUHAY NI JUAN

GEN. SANTOS (NOW OPEN!)	
1 G-FORCE	3 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER
2 THE GAMER	4 MY SISTER'S KEEPER

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MOVIEWORLD citi

'Dexter' lead star puts fresh twist on character

LOS ANGELES — "I WORE HEAVY DUTY gray rubber to horror of horrors," is merrily dressed Michael C. Hall said, referring to the undersized costume of his TV character member of the Miami police department by day, once gay witch a lurid, serial killer by night.

Settling down with a thirty the star of Showtime's popular series "Dexter" quipped as he pondered the first questions in our interview, "So I guess my career and think of what to say..." In our rambling talk, he gamely discusses myriad topics, from the "mood" bottom of this season's special guest (John Lithgow), his pre-show tooth brushing ritual, his many audition experiences for a musical (yes, he does sing) and divorce and life with his wife, actress Jennifer Carpenter, who plays former Morgan's sister.

Michael also stars in hour-and-thriller's action-thriller, "Damien."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

You've been doing this for several seasons now. How do you keep it fresh? What does John Lithgow bring to the series?

I never see anything in every-that I never anticipated. When we were shooting the pilot episode or even the first season, I never anticipated he would be father to his own child or entertain the idea of actually getting married. So there is both in evolution and hesitancy each season.

It's such a shot in the arm to all of us that our guest star is John Lithgow. He's a film! to kill the story with us for a season. He is mind-numbingly chilling and horrifying in this role.

John is a wonderful man, one of the genuinely nicest people I've ever met. He is one of the most professional, most technically proficient and yet grounded actors I've ever worked with. One of the reasons things I love and it's hard to do with my age growing up was John in "The Twilight Zone." I was scared watching that movie. I was 6 or 7... and probably shouldn't have been there (laugh). The opportunity to work with him, someone who captivated my imagination in that film, and to so many others in so much evil. He has such a sense of joke about him, too, which is really infectious.

John's hairy behind makes quite an entrance in the season opener.

John is in his 60s. He has a nice ass (laughs). It's pretty, taut and toned (laughs). On his first day on the set, John made off all the doctors because that was what the scene called for. He was just so comfortable. I wasn't in the scene but the crew was crowding on how incredible it was, John Lithgow totally naked, just walking around on the set. He's just so game.

What is it like working with the babies in "Dexter"?

We had this baby and his sister, who are twins, for the photo shoot. We had two babies hired for the season. Their mother made some unreasonable demands and they were many. Then we had babies for the first and second episode and something happened. They left or we're on our fourth set of babies now. The babies we have now are phenomenal. All the horror stories you hear about problems with sense of continuity when you're shooting a scene with babies? Not with these ones. A certain wasn't and these babies will give the same look (laughs). Nothing really grounds you than being able to gaze into the eyes of an infant if you're in a scene.

It must have something to do with their mother but these babies don't cry. There was one scene where the baby needed to cry and it was specific. The mother came in before "action" and just thumped him on the bottom of his foot and he cried and cried. We said, "Cut" and he stopped (laughs) immediately. We call him little baby Dhaliwal (friends, He's incredible. Both of them are. I call them both "he" because they're playing a boy but they're actually a boy and girl who are twins.

How do you assess the future?

I do know that Zach, the boy, born it when I go (makes popping sounds with his mouth). That's my special talent.

What can we look forward to in season four?

What excites me about the fourth season is that Dexter has been evolving. He's living under the same roof with his sister, her step kids and one child of his own. There's a maturation process at the lighter side of things but that's balanced with a darkness that the show has set-up-taken last exists in this season. The spectrum is broader. That darkness has to do with Dexter becoming enmeshed in his relationship with John's character, the most formidable target he's ever encountered. He's probably even more formidable in terms of the effect it's going to have on Dexter emotionally and psychologically.

Dexter is a serial killer, **yet the character has** hit a chord with the audience. **Do you think** that's kind of weird?

When I read the pilot script and read the book, I thought, how is this going to work? How are people going to identify with this guy? But, I think, the fact that he kills serious people, all bets would be off. The character is presented through the voice-over element, so someone who is telling you as an audience member a secret that he tells no one else. So you're sort of in on it with him. While his are really big secrets, people can relate to having secrets that they keep or to managing compartments that they with they didn't have. People relish the opportunity to identify with a character who they wouldn't normally be given that opportunity to identify with and who, on paper, is doing reprehensible things.

People who don't know that you're dense musical theater will be surprised to see you dancing and lip-synching in the movie "Gamer" and doing fight scenes as well.

The dance sequence was in the script. That's how we, Paramount executive his guests, especially if he intends to sound them with his mind and kill them. It just seemed like a lot of fun and we came up with the basic soft shoe dance steps. The fun that does those that Sammy Davis Jr. sequence ("I've Got You Under My Skin"), has itself to a plausibility that forced itself to be more of a metaverse kind of thing. It seemed really appropriate, considering the setup-pulling that the character was doing. So it was a lot of fun doing those scenes, and also the fight scene because it required so much more of an expansive energy than does the stuff I do on "Dexter."

I've worked in musical theater in New York. I played the Dancer in "Cabaret" and Billy Flynn in "Chicago" on Broadway. As far as the fighting goes, I'm glad that at least for a part of the films, I was able to control Gerry rather with my mind. Otherwise, I might have been in trouble (laughs).

Is there a genre other than musicals that you are interested in?

I sang in a rock band when I was in college (laughs). We weren't very good, though. We played straight up...blues-based rock.

"I HATE how surrounded by babies (if) my life—small babies as opposed to big babies," says Michael C. Hall, who plays the title role in the popular show about a cop-turn-serial killer.

up...blues-based rock.

Can you talk about the serendipity of getting this series and meeting the woman who would become your wife?

You never know where your life is going to take you. When I finished "Six Feet Under," I moved back to New York, thinking that I would be based there. The "Dexter" script came along and the next thing I knew, I was down in Miami, thinking I was possibly going to move down. But we were going to shoot it here in LA so I'm back in LA. I fell in love with my colleague. It's remarkable. Four years ago, I didn't see any of this. I didn't fantasize about it. It just materialized seemingly out of the ether.

We met at work and we had an immediate affinity for one another as fellow actors and as people. As an actor, what you hope for is to work with people who you trust. We trust one another.

How has your life changed since you got married?

It has changed in that we bought a home that we have decorated and entertained together. It has also changed in the sense of familial nesting together. She's from Kentucky. I'm from North Carolina. We had a celebration in Kentucky this past February with all our family members there. That was wonderful.

As do you want to be the father of your own Brando babies someday?

I certainly will be a father one day. I have been surrounded by small babies over the course of my life—small babies as opposed to big babies (laughs). There's a lot of big babies in this career.

What scares you the most in real life?

An audition that you're not prepared for. I had to audition for the musical, "The Sweet Smell of Success" that John Lithgow actually did on Broadway. I was in the middle of doing "Cabaret" and I had no voice. I had to sing a very high register song. It was one of those musical auditions where there were 25 people watching you. I completely blew it. I actually bailed out before the big note in the end because I knew I wasn't going to reach it. Horrific. Bombed's coked or on like I said something horrible about his grandmother or sex or something. It was really bad. That was something.

Dexter's ritual is collecting blood. What are your own rituals?

We moved to a house on a hill. I usually walk to the top of the hill every morning and look down before I make my breakfast. I'm a creature of ritual. Jennifer cursed the first time she saw me brush my teeth that, after I get the toothbrush clean, I sucked the water out of the toothbrush (laughs). She was like, "Are you doing that to crack me up or do you really do that?" I said, "Yeah, I do that every time. I brush my teeth" (laughs).

Does Jennifer ever have a say on what you wear?

Jennifer doesn't tell me what to wear. When I was growing up, there was a time where it was just my mom and me. My mom was not one to lay out my clothes for me or buy my clothes or even iron my shirt. She just showed me how that was. I'd rather certainly there to weigh in. Sometimes I get that [demonstrating a disapproving look]. I go, "Really?" or I just change clothes (laughs).

Does Dexter ever go into your dreams?

I don't really dream as Dexter, though there's been times when I've had the experience of Dexter lurking in the background. I did have one dream where Little Chino, the giant guy from the second season who my character had trouble killing, kept showing up at my door and I was like, "I was like, "Why are you here?" I would get him to leave and I'd go to the refrigerator. The door would keep opening and he would be there again. I'm sure the conversation I'm having with you right now will affect my dreams (laughs). There was this guy asking me questions...

Send the columnist at reinpales_2000@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Upside Report," at https://blogs.inquirer.net/upsidereport.

Rufa Mae...

From page A4

stand I am on my mirror," she says. She claims to constantly set aside the adds. "You never know what will happen tomorrow. That's why I'm working hard, to prepare for the future."

She is also in the cast of "Darna."

When she finally got hitched, she says, "I'll just be happy my work hard." She now finds she could take stock in her life. "When you are committed to someone, your priorities change," she points out. "Everything should be balanced. All my life, I've been working and helping other people. It's time for my own happiness."

She realized life's too short with the devastation wrought by Storm "Ondoy" and typhoon "Pepeng."

She relates, "Our taping for 'SNL' was in Pampanga. We didn't even know that other parts of the region were already flooded. Good thing, we got home safely."

She says her husband "is helping a lot of people in Pampanga."

"I want to do my share, but I don't want to depend on him. That's why I'm working so I can also help ... not only my family, but my previous-mates in Pampanga as well."

Her own relatives and friends were affected by the calamities, she relates. On her own, she sent show remotes to comedienne K Brosas, whose home also got flooded.

"I was inspired to write a song, 'Through the Rain,' which I'll record soon," Rufa Mae says.

Mr. Gay World RP show's special guest

By Armin Adina

FOR ITS THIRD YEAR, THE MISTER Gay World Philippines pageant will have a special guest: Mister Gay World president and founder Tim Bowles.

National pageant director Noemi Abenoja said Inquirer Entertainment that Bowles will be in the country for a brief visit before flying to Norway.

Ode-ok

She added that Bowles' group has expressed interest in staging the International contest in the Philippines next year.

The winner of the national title will go to Mister Gay World in Oslo, Norway, where a global spokesperson for equality and acceptance for gay men will be chosen.

Judges include Queen Bee Director Bellinda Mendoza, movie/TV writer-director Jose Javier Reyes, comedienne Eugene Domingo, actor/model and gay icon Christ Gil, fashion designer Renee Salud and actor Gil Gandinghal.

Nineteen candidates will vie for the title that will be relinquished by its present holder Wilbert Tolentino.

Tolentino is the most successful Filipino delegate to the international contest so far, having bagged three special awards last year—Best in National Costume, Mister Popularity and Best in Festival Wear.

Among this year's hopefuls is budding filmmaker Arthur Cuenca. The 22-year-old member of the hip-hop group Philippine All Stars dreams of making a film about his mother Virginia Moreno, the first woman to be governor's political prisoner in the United States under the Marcos regime. "She inspired me so much. She displayed love and respect for other people," Arthur said.

Younger

The youngest contestant is 21-year-old Vhon Hinolangolang, an instructor at Filipinos First. He believes his youth will not hurt his chances in the pageant. "I started working when I was 17. I've also worked abroad and have been independent for

JETHRO CUENCA

four years now," he explained.

TV personality Boy Abunda will host the pageant at the Metro Bar in Quezon City on Oct. 25 at 9 p.m.

10 inspiring stories

ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERsary, The Lifestyle Network pays tribute to 10 outstanding women who have made a mark in their fields.

The women whose stories will be told: Lea Salonga, Sharon Cuneta, Isabel Oliver, Glenda Mercado-Tanedo, Shamcey Supsup-Lee, Kara Alikpala, Margarita Forés, Emily Abrera, Gina Lopez and Lisa Macuja.

The celebrations will be highlighted by a week-long photo exhibit at the Greenprime Mall, from today till Oct. 31.

Log on to www.thelifestylenetwork.tv for schedules and other details.